ENTERTAINMENT / D1

Gawad Kalinga movie 'Paraiso,' screened in US

WORLD / A19

Math experts finally solve E8 problem

WORLD / A20

US, North Korea resolve bank row; talks begin

BUSINESS / B1

91-day T-bill rate inches up to 2.998%

NEWS/ A2

Survey shows militant party-list groups ahead

Radical solutions to global warming pose bigger risks

PANIC SOLUTIONS YAN, AH!

WASHINGTON—WHEN climate scientist Andrew Weaver considers the idea of tinkering with Earth's air, water or sunlight to fight global warming, he remembers the lessons of a favorite children's book.

RADICAL/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Tuesday, March 20, 2007 ★★ 4 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 102 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Atong's plea bargain gets him 6 years in jail

By Jocelyn R. Uy

CHARLIE "ATONG" ANG, A FORMER GAMBLING buddy of deposed President Joseph Estrada, was sentenced yesterday to between two years and four months and six years in prison instead of up to 40 years.

The Sandiganbayan meted out the sentence as part of the deal Ang had struck with the

ATONG'S/ A6

Satur taken for a ride

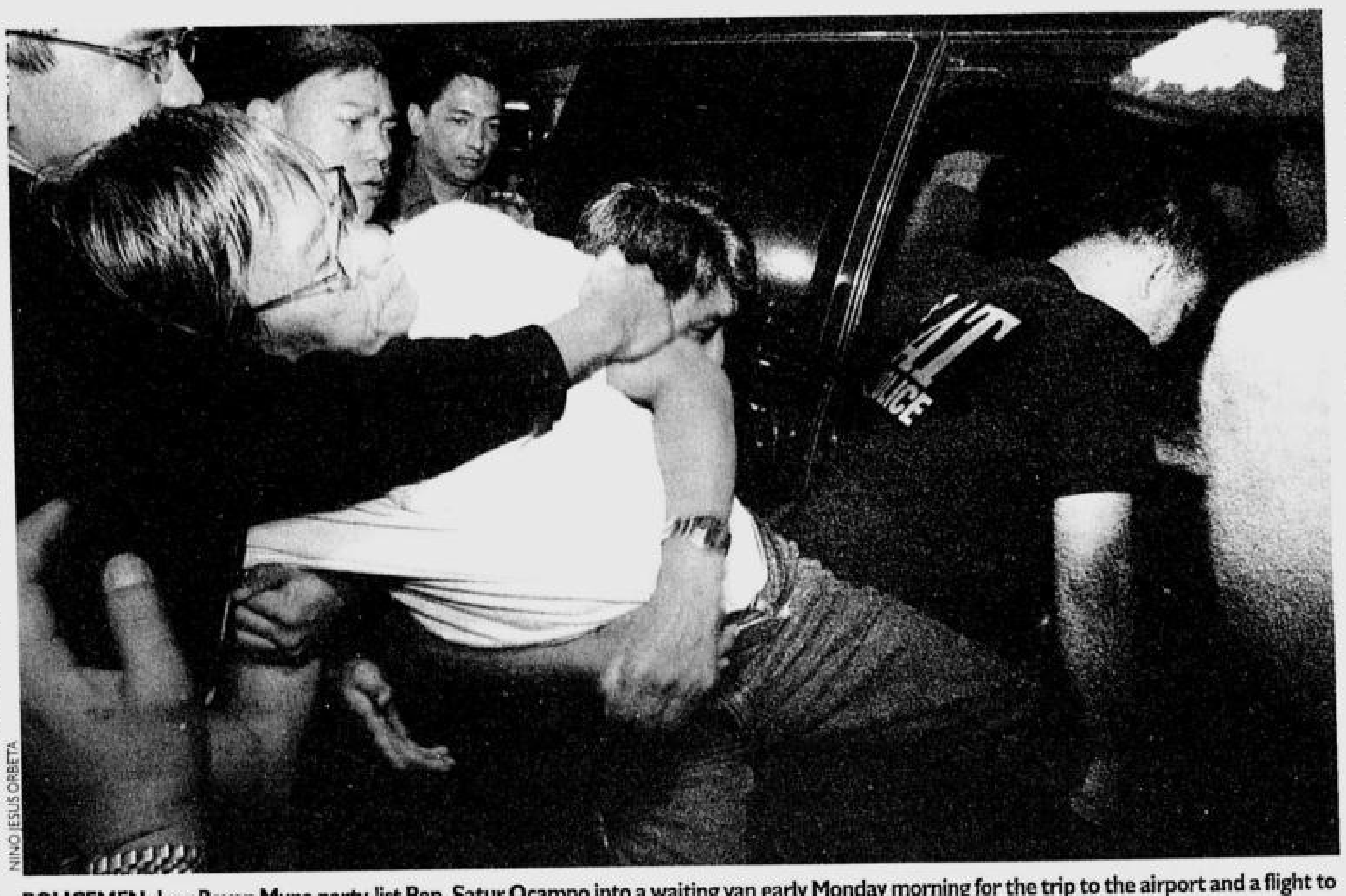
Palace hand seen in Ocampo snafu

By Tony S. Bergonia

THE CABINET'S NATIONAL SECURITY cluster was the unseen hand in the move to forcibly transfer Rep. Satur Ocampo to a Leyte jail, an indication of official Malacañang involvement in the abortive operation, INQUIRER sources said yesterday.

Palace officials said the group—officially called the Cabinet Oversight Committee on Internal Security (Cocis)—met recently to discuss several issues, but spent much of its time on the case of Ocampo, the militant lawmaker charged with the murders of suspected military spies, whose supposed skeletal remains were found in a mass grave in a Leyte town.

PALACE/ A9



NINO JESUS ORBETA

POLICEMEN drag Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo into a waiting van early Monday morning for the trip to the airport and a flight to Tacloban City to face charges in a 22-year-old mass murder case. Holding on tightly to Ocampo is Rep. Teddy Casiño (left), also of Bayan Muna.

Judge aborts trip to Leyte, says solon may stay in Manila

By Tarra Quismundo and Alcuin Papa

THEY WOKE HIM AT 3 A.M., shoved him into a van over his protests, then took him to the airport, where they spirited him away on an eight-seater private plane to Leyte.

The police and militant Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo, the man they had intended to bring before a Leyte judge to answer charges of multiple murder, never reached their destination, however.

Two and a half hours into the flight and while flying over Masbate, the Cessna plane unexpectedly turned back and the hair-raising operation—carried out with Malacañang's backing—turned into what Ocampo later described as "a joyride."

The flight was aborted by no less than Leyte Judge Ephrem Abando himself who ordered Ocampo's appearance before his court deferred. Abando's order would allow Ocampo to remain in Manila, for the time being.

"It was a joyride. We flew out of Manila and just returned. It was quite [an adventure]," the 67-year-old congressman told the INQUIRER upon his return.

Defiant all the way, Ocampo had protested his transfer to Leyte on

SATUR/ A8

Court orders arrest of Inquirer editors Mike A sued for libel

By Tina Santos

A MANILA COURT YESTERDAY issued warrants for the arrest of INQUIRER columnist Ramon Tulfo, the publisher and eight editors of the publication after it found probable cause to support the libel case filed against

COURT/ A6

Son cries but others are just plain mad

By Christian V. Esguerra

HIS FATHER MAY HAVE PUT ON A STOIC face and his mother a defiant one.

But it was the son who expressed the pain the family of Bayan Muna Rep. Saturnino "Satur" Ocampo was feeling.

"*Nakakapagod na* (It's wearying)," Ocampo's son Antonio said between sobs during the "Solidarity Gathering" for the detained party-list lawmaker at Club Filipino in San Juan, Metro Manila, yesterday.

Amid the strong show of support from a cross-section of society, Antonio broke into tears while his father was in a police hangar, awaiting a final decision to fly him to far-flung Hilongos in Leyte.

"I don't want him to go on like this .... He's turning 68 and he still finds it difficult to be with his children and grandchildren," Antonio lamented in Filipino, noting that last Friday was the third time that his father had been arrested.

"That's why I ask for your support and prayers," he told his audience.

Antonio and his family received plenty of support from opposition stalwarts, human rights lawyers, academicians and members of the religious who banded yesterday into the "Free Satur, Stand for Justice" movement.

Among them were National Artist for Lit-

SON CRIES/ A8

Meet the Romeros: 3 generations of mistahs

By Cathy S. Babao Guballa

CADET 1ST CLASS MARC ANTHONY Romero of the "Maragtas" Class of 2007 etched a place in Philippine Military Academy history by becoming only the third graduate of a three-generation PMA family.

His grandfather, Brig. Gen. Antonio Romero, was a member of Class 1941.

His father, Armed Forces of the Philippines Vice Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Antonio L. Romero II, belongs to Class 1974.

Yesterday, it was Marc's turn to graduate from the academy and join the Philippine Army.

A former PMA superintendent, retired Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Estrellado says that of the approximately 8,000

MEET/ A6

Protect republic, GMA tells PMA cadets

By Michael Lim Ubac

BAGUIO CITY—SHOWING NO SIGN of letting up on her all-out war against terrorists and state enemies, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday told the new graduates of the Philippine Military Academy to protect the republic from those who would sow terror.

"We will go and we will fight," the President declared in her speech before the 282 members of the Maragtas Class of 2007, topped by woman cadet Andrelee S. Mojica, on the academy's Borromeo Field.

Ms Arroyo acknowledged that the fresh graduates were "excited" to go to war-torn Jolo, Sulu, but she also urged them to "build schools, roads, feed the children, teach them to read, and you will understand one another's religion."

With the newly signed Human Security Act, more popularly known as the antiterror law, and funding to buy equipment such as helicopters for the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Ms Arroyo said the young soldiers were in a better position to ensure that all citizens "enjoy equal protection and freedom from fear."

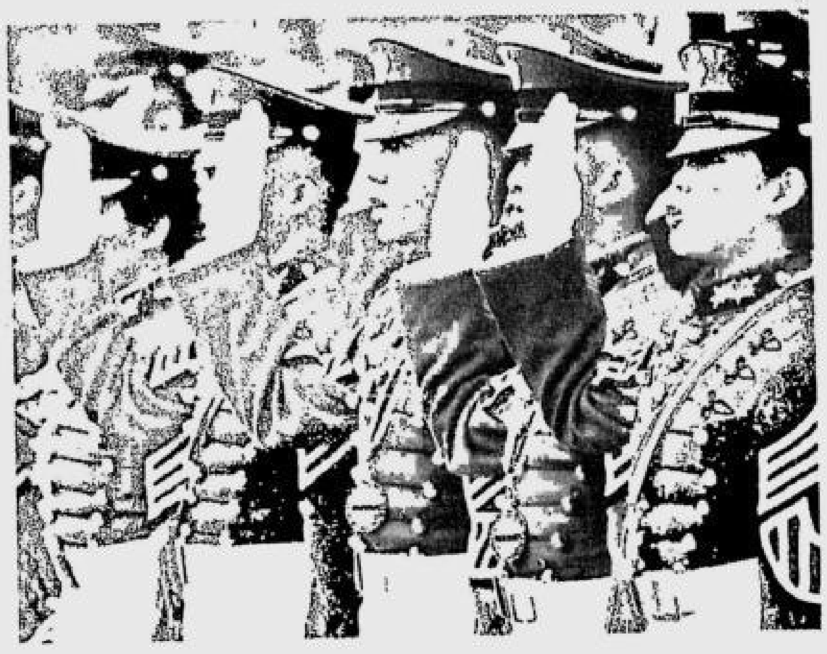
"And this is what you Maragtas Class 2007 will provide for the people," the President stressed. "The force of political stability must be seen in all other facets of our national life rather than just antiterrorism and antiinsurgency, safe streets, inviolable homes, public mobility free from crime."

The President said that through the new second lieutenants, "government will reach the farthest communities of the land and assure their security and freedom. Because you ... will be an enabler of a peaceful and productive life among our people."

Her marching orders to the new soldiers: "Have a leader's heart."

Ms Arroyo said she did not need to ex

PROTECT/ A6



POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE
President Macapagal-Arroyo (left), watched by the military top brass, steps up to a platform for arrival honors during the graduation of Philippine Military Academy Maragtas Class of 2007 on Monday at Fort del Pilar in Baguio City. Graduating cadets (above), led by class valedictorian Andrelee Mojica, take their oath as newly commissioned officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

LYN RILLON

EZ2 **FOUR DIGIT**
⑧ ⑨ | ⑦ ⑧ ② ③
Mid-Day **SUERTRES** Evening
③ ⑥ ⑤ | ③ ④ ④
(All in exact order)
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Second FrontPage

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. Mindanao and Eastern Visayas will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	**Roxas**	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	**Cebu**	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	**Tacloban**	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	**Gen. Santos**	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	**Zamboanga**	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	**Cagayan de Oro**	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	**Davao**	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY: KATE PEDROSO, INQUIRER RESEARCH/03/19/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

Survey shows militant party-list groups ahead

By Kate Pedroso
Inquirer Research

THIRTEEN PARTY-LIST GROUPS WOULD HAVE won at least one seat in Congress had the elections been held during the first week of the month, according to a recently released survey by Pulse Asia Inc.

The survey showed that one in two registered Filipino voters (49 percent) was aware of the party-list system and nearly six in 10 (57 percent) voters said they would elect a party-list group to the House of Representatives.

Pulse Asia's March 2007 Ulat ng Bayan (Report of the Nation) national survey on party-list preferences, which was conducted from Feb. 28 to March 5, also found that militant Bayan Muna led the list of probable winners, with an overall voter preference of 11.9 percent, which meant that the group would retain the three seats currently occupied by Representatives Satur Ocampo, Teodoro Casiño and Joel Virador.

The release of the survey came on the heels of Ocampo's arrest in front of the Supreme Court on Friday on charges of ordering the killing of military spies in the communist movement over two decades ago.

Party-list Anak Pawis (8 percent) came next, followed by Akbayan (7 percent) and Gabriela (6.4 percent), who each would have garnered three seats in the Lower House.

Anakpawis is currently represented by Crispin Beltran and Rafael Mariano; Akbayan by Mario Aguja, Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel and Etta Rosales, and Gabriela by Liza Maza.

The four militant party-list groups also had a statistical chance of winning in the recent survey on party-list preferences by the Social Weather Stations, along with party-lists Aangat Tayo and Amin.

The SWS survey, conducted from Feb. 24 to Feb. 27, found that nine party-list groups had met the minimum two-percent rule. Other groups that also made the top nine in the SWS survey were Aangat Ka Pinoy, An Waray Aangat Tayo and Aba-Ako.

Pulse Asia identified the other party-lists that would have sent sent one representative each to the House of Representatives as follows: Aangat Tayo (3.6 percent), Angat Antas Kabuhayan Pilipino Movement (2.8 percent), Angat Ating Kabuhayan (2.7 percent), Anak Mahirap Learning Center Inc. (2.6 percent), Alyansa ng Sambayanan para sa Pagbabago (2.4 percent), Anak Mindanao (Amin, 2.4 percent), Kabataan (2.3 percent), Ahon Pinoy (2.2 percent) and Citizens Battle Against Corruption (Cibac, 2.2 percent).

Cibac currently has one seat in the House occupied by Rep. Joel Villanueva, while Amin has Rep. Mujiv Hataman.

Across geographic areas, levels of awareness on party-lists ranged from 41 percent in the rest of Luzon to 63 percent in the Visayas. Pulse Asia also found that those in classes ABC were more aware of the party-list system (59 percent), compared to those in classes D and E (49 percent and 44 percent, respectively).

The survey was conducted using face-to-face interviews with a multistage probability sample of 1,800 representative Filipino adults. It had a margin of error of plus-minus 2 percentage points at the 95-percent confidence level.

With this margin of error, voter preference for the party-list Gabriela, for instance, may range from 4.4 percent to 8.4 percent—which, in turn, means that the group may have either two or three seats.

Pulse Asia's executive director Dr. Ana Maria Tabunda said that since the margin of error issue was "difficult to explain to the people," Pulse Asia took the results at face value in order to simplify things. "When you get at least two percent, you already get one seat," she said.

Tabunda added that the margin of error was more a warning to parties in danger of losing seats should the 2-percentage points be deducted from them. "It's a warning for those who barely made it to try harder," she said.

Nationwide many Pinoys still hungry, SWS survey finds

AROUND ONE IN FIVE FAMILies, or an estimated 3.4 million households nationwide, has experienced involuntary hunger at least once in the past three months, a recent survey by the Social Weather Stations found.

Overall hunger remained at the record-high 19 percent reached last November.

The first quarter 2007 Social Weather Survey conducted from Feb. 24 to 27 also found that the problem of hunger worsened in Metro Manila and the rest of Luzon. It declined in severity in the Visayas, while it barely changed in Mindanao, SWS said in a statement yesterday.

Hunger in the capital rose to 20.7 percent in February, from 17.7 percent in November 2006, while it also rose to 18.3 percent in the rest of Luzon from 17.7 percent. In Mindanao, it moved to 22.7 percent in February from 22.3 percent last quarter.

In the Visayas, however, overall hunger declined by nearly four percentage points to 15.3 percent in February, from 19 percent in November.

The percentage of households who have experienced "moderate hunger,"—defined as households experiencing involuntary hunger "only once" or "a few times" in the last three months—moved down to 15 percent in February from 15.1 percent in November.

Moderate hunger went up slightly in Metro Manila to 15.7 percent from 12.7 percent, and in Mindanao to 18 percent from 17.3 percent. It declined in the Visayas (to 12.7 percent from 15.3 percent) and in the rest of Luzon (to 14.3 percent from 14.7 percent).

Severe hunger—defined as experiencing involuntary hunger "often" or "always"—moved to 4 percent from 3.9 percent nationwide. It increased slightly in Luzon outside Metro Manila (to 4 percent from 3 percent), remained at 5 percent in the capital, and declined in the Visayas and Mindanao (to 2.7 percent from 3.7 percent, and to 4.7 percent from 5 percent, respectively).

The survey was conducted using face-to-face interviews with a national sample of 1,200 statistically representative household heads (300 each in Metro Manila, the rest of Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao). It had a margin of error of plus-minus 3 percentage points. *Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research*

Group looks beyond polls for Pinoy pride

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

HERE IS A GROUP WHICH WOULD rather focus on the voters than on the candidates, setting its eyes not on the coming elections, but what will happen 23 years after.

"While everybody else is focusing on the May elections, we are focusing on what happens after," Institute for Solidarity in Asia founding chair and president Jesus Estanislao said.

The sad reality is that the quality of most of our voters "is poor," he said. "They (voters) are easily smitten by personalities. They have no interest on issues," he added.

He said the game plan to correct this, however, would not be completed in time for the coming polls, but would be a continuing work in the next two decades.

His group, an umbrella organization of various sectoral groups, local government units and businessmen, is pushing for what it calls the Philippine National Road Map 2030.

Its dream is the accomplishment of the everyday wish: Make the Filipino proud of the Philippines.

"Our near obsession with politics and with everything political often blinds us from seeing the bigger social dimension of which politics is only a part," Estanislao said in a book titled "Philippines 2030: Journey to Nationhood," which was distributed during the group's meeting in Pasay City last week.

He listed at least six steps that have to be taken to attain the country Filipinos can be proud of.

He said change should begin with values, followed by the transmission of values through institutions.

The next step is equipping key institutions with higher levels of capability, or improving institutional capacity. There should be matching infrastructure development and a focus on the economy, which could finally make all the improvements available to every Filipino.

"Pinoys are not used to thinking long-term so progress tends to change from one government to another. We should force ourselves to think long-term," Management Association of the Philippines immediate past president Evelyn Singson said during the forum.

The road map is a long-term plan the group hopes to popularize. To do this, the organization also helped establish road maps for sectors of society and model local government units.

There are already road maps for the academe, the military, the media, the youth sector and the business sector.

The following local government units have also been declared model cities, after their compliance with the Public Governance System the ISA is promoting: Marikina, Iloilo, Naga, San Fernando (Pampanga), San Fernando (La Union), Tagbilaran, Calbayog and Sorsogon, according to ISA executive director Christian Zaens.

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Miriam says killings basis for impeachment

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

SEN. MIRIAM DEFENSOR-SANTIAGO yesterday warned President Macapagal-Arroyo the opposition would use the issue of extrajudicial killings in the country to make a fresh bid to impeach her in July.

Santiago, an ally of the President, said the investigation of the United States Senate on the killings of militants and journalists in the Philippines would embolden the opposition to use the issue as a basis for a third impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo.

But Santiago expressed confidence the opposition would be hard put to pin the crimes on Ms Arroyo, who has weathered two impeachment bids arising from allegations she cheated in the 2004 presidential election.

The administration senator, one of 12 incumbent senators whose terms end in 2010, predicted Ms Arroyo would again avoid impeachment if she retains enough allies in the incoming 14th Congress.

"If the administration retains a dominant majority in the House of Representatives, the impeachment complaint will be dismissed because of lack of proof that President Arroyo personally ordered or acquiesced to the killings," Santiago said.

The Melo Commission had found that some of the killings were perpetrated by members of the military. But Santiago chided the commission for failing to name names.

"What use are those special courts created to hear cases of extrajudicial killings if no cases are filed? The prosecution needs time to build each case, but it cannot even start because the Melo Commission did not give any names to work from," Santiago said.

Santiago junked the Melo Commission's contention that the government was ultimately responsible for upholding human rights and preventing the killings.

"President Arroyo, as Commander in Chief, does not incur criminal liability because she is liable in her individual capacity, only if the Philippine government has committed an internationally unlawful act against another state," Santiago said.

Military looks for 2nd NPA grave site in Leyte

THE ARMED FORCES OF THE Philippines is looking for another mass grave in Inopacan, Leyte, not planting bones of victims of an alleged communist purge in the 1980s as Satur Ocampo claims, Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro said yesterday.

The AFP spokesperson said the grave site soldiers were looking for contained more casualties of the reported communist cleanup of its ranks and was near the mass graves discovered in August last year. Bacarro said the graves were "authentic."

Bacarro said Ocampo, the Bayan Muna representative detained on murder charges in connection with the communist New People's Army purge, was just coming out with an "excuse" when he accused the AFP of planting skeletons in Leyte.

He said Ocampo, who has been charged with other communist leaders led by Jose Ma. Sison in the killings, was "being accused of having masterminded" the murders, according to Bacarro.
(See related story on Page A1)

"Of course, he (Ocampo) can come out with an excuse... we leave it to the court to determine his real participation there," Bacarro said in a phone interview with reporters.

Bacarro, who was with AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon and the other officers when the Leyte grave site was first revealed to media last year, said the grave site in Barangay Sapang Dako was a "legitimate" one and that the Philippine National Police and barangay residents helped in digging up the skeletons there.

Maj. Gen. Rodrigo Maclang, who was then the commander of the 8th Infantry Division which dug up the graves, said the mass graves in Leyte were known to barangay residents there as the "garden."

"It's about 1,000 feet above sea level and the reporters who joined General Esperon saw for themselves how difficult the terrain was," said Maclang, who is now commander of the 5th Infantry Division based in Northern Luzon.

"So my reply to Satur: He should be true to himself. He should face his crime and face the families of the victims of barbarism by the NPA," Maclang said. *Christine O. Avendaño*

Comelec sets probe of AFP men in metro

By Jerome Aning

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS YESterday said it would see for itself if urban poor communities in Metro Manila were being militarized, despite the denial of Armed Forces of the Philippines National Capital Region chief Maj. Gen. Ben Dolorfino.

"I doubt the commission will take General Dolorfino's denial at face-value. My feeling about this is the commission will exert effort in validating his response," Comelec spokesperson James Arthur Jimenez said in a press briefing.

Soldiers deployed in Metro Manila slums since last year were there to harass their members, sabotage their electoral campaigns and intimidate the voters, leftist party-list groups have claimed.

Dolorfino said the soldiers were there for training in civil-military operations like medical and dental missions and building and repairing canals, roads and sidewalks.

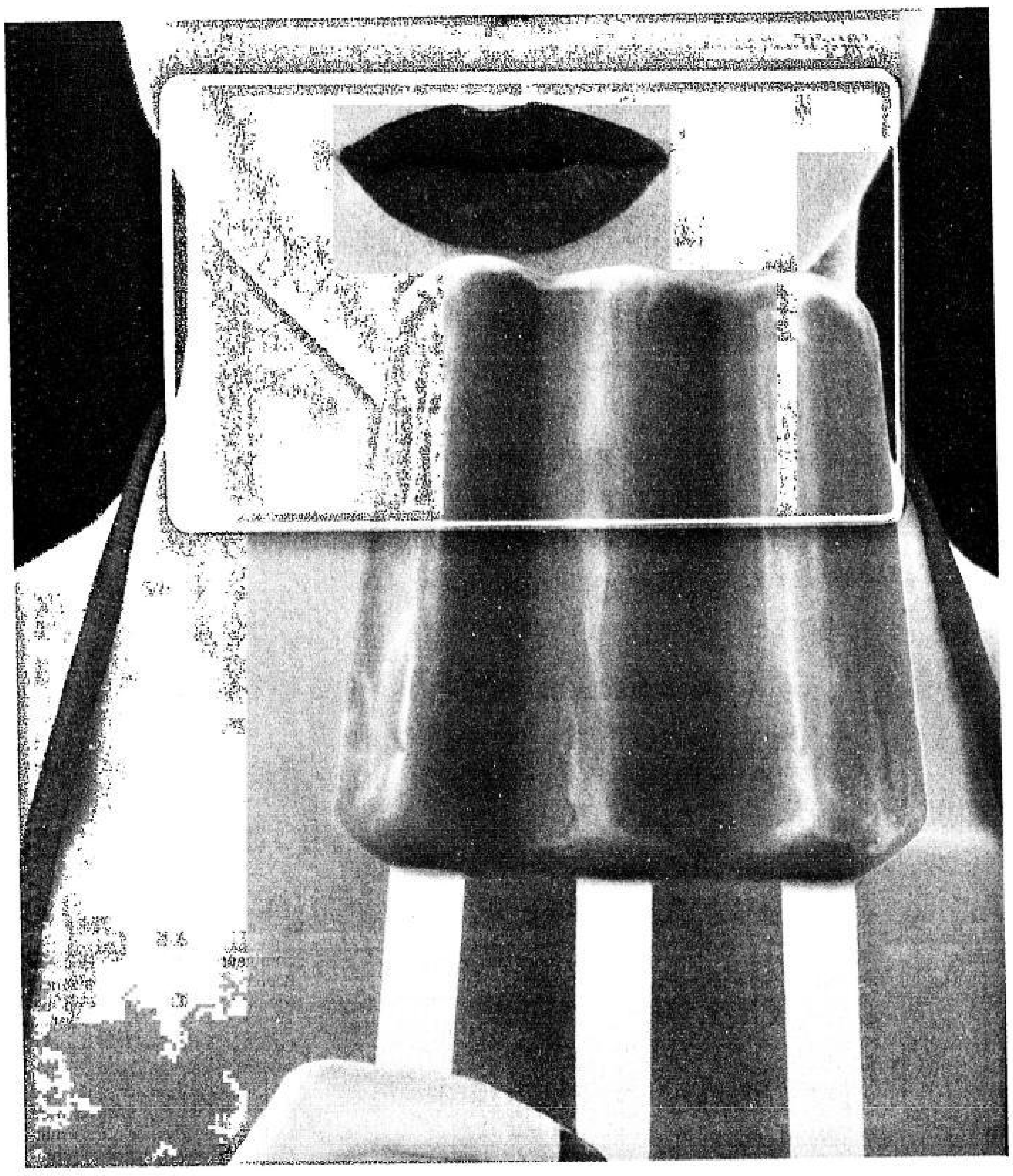
Party-list groups Bayan Muna, Anakpawis, Kabataan and Akbayan filed complaints against the military intervention with the Comelec. They claimed the soldiers were scaring the people when they tell them not to vote for their groups.

Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos had asked AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon to explain the deployments after the party-list groups charged the soldiers were electioneering.

"The Comelec will conduct inquiries of its own," Jimenez said.

He urged complainants to back their claims with written testimony or videotapes of soldiers telling voters not to elect any of the leftist party-list groups, in violation of election rules.

"We need someone to tell us what happened, so we can act," he said.



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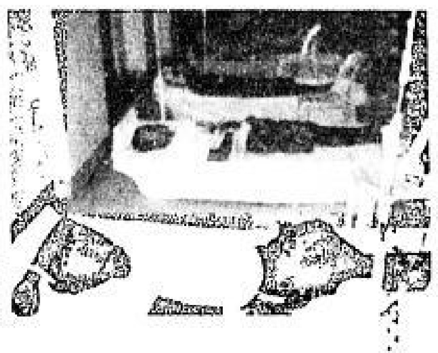
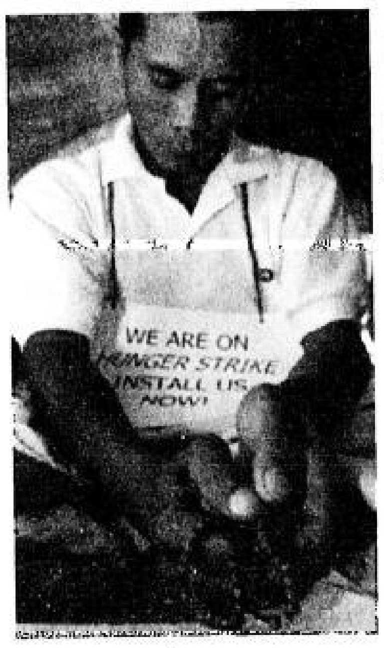
Government Must Enforce Rule of Law in Hacienda Velez-Malaga

Install the Farmer-Beneficiaries in Their Land Now!




WE ARE ON HUNGER STRIKE INSTALL US NOW!

The failure of government last March 8 to place the 122 farmer-beneficiaries of Hacienda Velez-Malaga in the land awarded to them five years ago was a telling blow on the rule of law and social justice.

Despite all factors for a successful installation—absence of legal impediment, readiness of the Army and Police to secure, moral and legal rights of farmer-beneficiaries—Acting Agrarian Reform Secretary Nasser Pangandaman aborted the installation on the pretext of avoiding bloodshed.

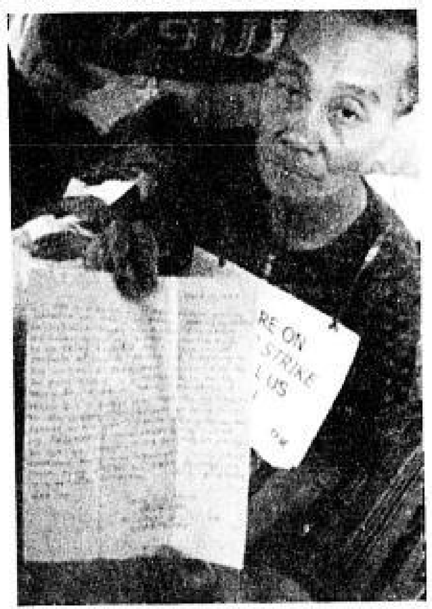
If the government is willing to install, it can install, despite threat of violence from the former landowner who has no more rights to the land.

It was Pangandaman's prime mandate to install, but clearly his inability to implement such a basic tenet of the agrarian reform program seriously undermines the rights of our poor farmers. His continued stay in the Department of Agrarian Reform puts to severe test the credibility and sincerity of this administration.

The installation of farmer-beneficiaries in Velez-Malaga, one of so many contentious haciendas in Negros Occidental, is a national political issue. It symbolizes the struggle of Filipino farmers for equitable ownership of land, the very soul of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

CARP is a flagship anti-poverty program. President Macapagal-Arroyo should assure the Filipino farmers that CARP is still a priority program of her administration, and that they still have hope under this program.

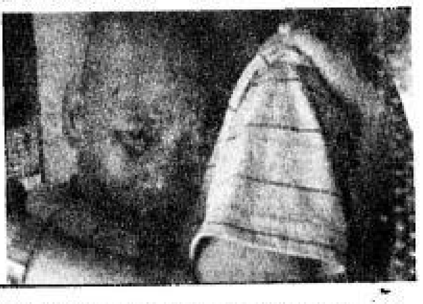
The President must end the suffering of the farmers who are on 27th day of hunger strike in front of DAR. All they ask is to be installed in their land.



WE CALL ON PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO:

1. TO DIRECTLY FACILITATE THE IMMEDIATE INSTALLATION OF THE 122 FARMER-BENEFICIARIES IN THE 144 HECTARES AWARDED TO THEM UNDER CARP
2. TO APPOINT A NEW PERSON CAPABLE OF DOING THE BASIC JOB OF A DAR SECRETARY
3. TO ENSURE MILITARY OR POLICE PROTECTION FOR THE FARMER-BENEFICIARIES AGAINST VIOLENCE BY FORMER LANDOWNER ROBERTO CUENCA

MADAM PRESIDENT, THE LIVES OF HUNGER STRIKING FARMERS ARE AT STAKE. PLEASE ACT NOW BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.



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ADVT

HONORARY DEGREE
The Technological University of the Philippines, in collaboration with the Commission on Higher Education, conferred the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Technology Management, honoris causa, on Dr. James G. Dy, noted businessman, philanthropist and civic leader, on March 8 at the TUP campus grounds in Ermita, Manila. Conferred the same degree was Edward L. Fereira, Philippine consul general to Kazakhstan and former president of the Management Association of the Philippines. Also on stage are CHEd Commissioner and TUP Board of Regents chair Nona S. Ricafort, TUP president Dr. Godofredo E. Gallega and CHEd chair Carlito S. Puno.

It's summer: Worms, disease warning out

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.
and TJ Burgonio

THIS SUMMER, PROTECT YOUR children from dehydration, diarrhea and worms.

"Drink lots of water. We should always hydrate ourselves and our children," said Yolanda Oliveros, director of the National Center for Disease Prevention and Control.

Parents should make sure, however, that the water source is clean. Diarrhea cases are on the rise during summer, Oliveros warned.

When going out of town, eat and drink in places that are clean because dirty food and water can cause diarrhea and worm infections.

In a study last year, the University of the Philippines found that six out of 10 schoolchildren were infected with worms.

Oliveros said worms could stunt mental and physical growth and damage internal organs.

The Department of Health said in a statement that it would continue the mass deworming of children which it started last year to curb soil-transmitted helminthiasis in the country.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque said the department wants to reduce the prevalence of worm infections from the current 54 percent to 30 percent by 2010.

In October 2006, the DOH distributed deworming tablets to children under 6 years through health centers all over the country. The next round of deworming for this age bracket will be in April.

In January, schoolchildren between ages 6 and 12 were given free deworming tablets in the public schools. The next distribution for this group will be in July.

The free tablets project twice a year will be sustained for three years or until 2009. This is funded by the DOH, the Council for the Welfare of Children, the World Health Organization, Unicef and Feed the Children International.

The weather will be hot and dry this summer in Metro Manila and the western part of the country, including the Ilocos region, Central Luzon and Southern Tagalog.

According to the weather bureau, there will be downpours every now and then, but only in the eastern side of the country which includes Mindanao and eastern Visayas.

"We're in the dry season, but not for the entire Philippines," said Nathaniel Cruz, weather branch chief of the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

He, however, stressed that while the eastern part of the country would experience heavy rainfall, this would only be for a short period and would not trigger floods.

Cruz explained that the rainfall was an offshoot of the heavy concentration of the weather system, the so-called Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), associated with thunderstorms and rains.

He said the dry season would prevail in the western part of the country for the next two months and would to peak in May.

"With the expected termination of the northeast monsoon, we expect the temperature to get a little warmer, and this will last until May," Cruz said.

So far, the metropolis recorded the hottest temperature last Friday at 36 degrees Celsius in Manila, and 35.5 degrees Celsius in Quezon City.

It is expected "to go up in the coming days" but will not breach 42.2 degrees Celsius, the hottest temperature recorded in Tuguegarao, Cagayan, in 1969.

"We don't expect that record to be broken," Cruz said, who advised the public to avoid "long exposure" to the sun, particularly between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. to avoid dehydration, skin irritation or heat stroke.

For those who work under the sun at those hours, like traffic enforcers, construction workers, farmers and fishermen, they should take more liquids, wear caps and long-sleeved shirts to protect themselves from the searing heat, he said.

More girls than boys finish high school, study shows

By Margaux C. Ortiz

WOMEN RULE IN HIGH school.

According to a study by the Department of Education, there are more female students, teachers and school heads in the public high schools than male.

In the latest Country Education for All Mid-Decade Assessment, the DepEd noted that more girls completed elementary and high school than boys.

"Aside from economic reasons, one possible reason behind boys dropping out of school is the dominance of female teachers in the (educational) system," DepEd Assistant Secretary Lilia Roces said in an education workshop organized by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) at the Eugenio Lopez Center in Antipolo City over the weekend.

Roces said the system might not be sensitive or responsive to the teaching and learning needs of boys so they drop out.

She said that despite having more male enrollees in the early childhood education (ECE) and elementary levels, key outcome indicators showed that basic and functional literacy rates of male youths and adults were lower than their female counterparts in high school.

"Female dominance in education is also manifested in persons who hold key positions in the system," Roces said in her presentation, explaining that the majority of public elementary school teachers and school heads were women.

She said that females likewise dominated key management positions such as the superintendent and director levels.

"We are going to conduct a more in-depth study to find out and confirm the reasons behind this trend," Roces said.

In the same presentation, the DepEd official said the government's 2005 targets in elementary and secondary net enrollment and completion rates had not been attained.

"There was a decreasing trend in elementary and secondary enrollment and completion rates from 2000 to 2005," she said.

DepEd studies showed that the number of Grade 1 applicants with ECE had been erratic, with the country failing to attain its 2005 target of 67 percent.

"The DepEd has a very limited allocation for ECE, which is less than one percent of its yearly budget," Roces said.

The DepEd studies also revealed that more students dropped out of the system as they reached the higher levels of high school. The lowest completion rate and highest percentage decrease from 2002 to 2005 were registered in the rural areas.

'Barbing Pinay' to soothe Bicol kids

TO HELP CHILDREN IN BICOL who were traumatized by the wrath of supertyphoon "Reming," students from the University of the Philippines and Ateneo de Nagá and a group of out-of-school youth will teach them how to make dolls they can play with.

In a workshop dubbed "Barbing Pinay for Bicol" to be held at the Naga Youth Center from March 30 to April 2, participants will create cloth dolls with clothes, accessories and life stories.

Many of the children lost their families, homes and toys when Reming lashed the region last year.

Organizers said the workshop would provide a sense of community and an occasion for surviving children and adults to interact and bond. They will share materials and ideas, and play games together with their dolls, they said.

The UP delegation will be composed of "Art Around Us" (Art Studies 2) students of Prof. Flaudette May V. Datuin of the Department of Art Studies. The group will be hosted by Jean Llorin of the Maugmang Pamilya Foundation and Tomasa Community Center.

To raise funds, the UP students will hold a rummage sale on March 28. They will also collect books for the Tomasa Community Center library and relief goods for the people still in evacuation centers in Albay.

More information may be obtained at www.barbingpinay.multiply.com or e-mail maydatuin@gmail.com.

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First graduates of new curriculum that eschews ancient rituals

By Frank Cimatu and Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

FORT DEL PILAR, BAGUIO City—The Philippine Military Academy has broken many of its century-old traditions in order to modernize and this year's batch of graduates was the first to benefit from what its superintendent described as a "bold move."

Maj. Gen. Leopoldo Maligalig yesterday said the Maragtas Class of 2007 was the beneficiary of a modern curriculum that disavows secret rituals and practices that date back to the academy's inception 108 years ago.

Maligalig said the comprehensive modernization plan, called "the PMA Roadmap to 2015," would convert the academy into a premier leadership institution in Asia.

He said modern warriors were necessary if President Macapagal-Arroyo was to bring about "peace that is non-negotiable."

Both Ms Arroyo and Maligalig referred to ancient texts to explain the class name to highlight its accomplishments.

'Noble protectors'

Members of Maragtas Class said their name was as an acronym of the phrase "Marangal na Tagapagligtas (Noble Protectors or Saviors)."

In her speech to the graduates, Ms Arroyo said Maragtas was a 13th century epic poem. She said "this legend relates the tale of 10 Bornean datus who fled persecution and sought freedom through uncharted seas and shores."

"Today, eight centuries later, through you, the Maragtas Class, government will bridge the far communities of the land and ensure their securities and freedom," she said.

The Maragtas reference has drawn criticism from historians, who said the epic may have been a hoax that should no longer be taught in schools.

Dr. Raymundo Rovillos, dean of the college of social sciences at the University of the Philippines-Baguio, said Maragtas was a collection of stories that relate how 10 datus escaped the wrath of Datu Makatunaw of Borneo and reached Panay.

Patronage politics

Offering jewels and a golden *salakot* (conical hat), the datus purchased the island from Marikudo, the leader of the Aytas, and became the proud ancestors of the Visayans.

Rovillos said: "For a President facing a period of instability and a crisis of legitimacy, using historical information, whether validated or not, to rally people to strengthen your stake, is typical."

He said Ms Arroyo also erred when she tried to associate the datus with the cadets.

"The datu is the cultural root of patronage politics," he said, "because the datu subsidizes the needs of his constituents in order to win their loyalties," Rovillos said.

Protect republic, GMA tells PMA cadets

From page A1

plain to the graduating class because in her valedictory, Mojica, who is joining the Philippine Navy, had already talked about it.

"She has a leader's heart. I know you all have a leader's heart."

In a later interview, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. explained that the President was not justifying the troop deployment to depressed areas in Metro Manila.

"She's talking about a holistic approach ... that counterinsurgency is the job of everyone. We must eradicate problems in peace and order if we are to develop," Esperon said.

Presidential Saber

Fulfilling one of her most important ceremonial functions both as head of state and commander in chief, Ms Arroyo conferred the highest honors on the Top 10 graduates of the Maragtas Class.

For graduating at the top of her class, the 23-year-old Mojica received the Presidential Saber and the PGMA Achievement Award for Excellence.

She also received the Philippine Navy Sword for being the No. 1 graduating cadet joining the Philippine Navy and the Jusmag (Joint US Military Advisory Group) Award, which is given to the top graduates joining the three major services of the AFP.

Mojica hails from Indang, Cavite, where a year ago a local college student heckled Ms Arroyo. This time, the President's presence was warmly acknowledged by Mojica.

Two other female cadets, Gemilyn Mendoza of San Quintin, Pangasinan, and Judyline Canoneo of Talisay City in Cebu made it to the Top 10, placing fifth and sixth, respectively.

Mendoza will join the Air Force, while Canoneo will join the Navy.

The other seven top graduates are Jonelle Diego Beltran (Santa Maria, Zamboanga), Arnold Enriquez (San Roque, Zamboanga), Emil Leyba (Tublay, Benguet), Cyrus Angelo Castillo (Muntinlupa City), James Lowell Andaya (Dumaguete City), Reuben Sancho Zate (Nabua, Camarines Sur) and Lemuel Rae Antonio II (Quezon City).

No. 2 graduate

Had it not been for an undisclosed violation, Beltran would have been the class valedictorian.

Beltran settled for No. 2 instead, although he received the most number of awards—the Vice Presidential Saber from Vice President Noli de Castro, the Philippine Air Force Saber from Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Horacio Tolentino, the Academic Group Award for being No. 1 in all academic courses, the Management Plaque for being the No. 1 cadet in all courses offered by the Department of Management and the Jusmag Award.

Beltran led 32 cadets who graduated with honors (cum laude), but it was Andaya, although at eighth place, who graduated magna cum laude.

The graduation rites were punctuated by cheers and applause from the cadets' relatives and friends, with the Cagayan delegation loudly exuberant over its 18 cadets who made it to the big day. They shouted for joy every time a Cagayanon was called on stage to receive medals and the Bachelor of Science degree diploma.

In contrast, Cadet Michael Andrew Frias cast a lonesome but proud figure as he made his way to the stage. He was the lone cadet from San Pascual, Masbate.

Ms Arroyo was assisted by Esperon, Defense Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., PMA Superintendent Maj. Gen. Leopoldo Maligalig and alternately by the three service commanders of the AFP.

'Social payback'

In her speech, Ms Arroyo said the AFP "must be the vanguard of a strong economy."

"The strength of the peso is boosting social amelioration. We're making headway in the social payback of economic growth. This is the real story taking place in the lives of the people," she said.

The President said the combined potency of a robust economic blueprint and the productivity of Filipinos here and abroad had caught "the eye of investors and political observers who are now seeing a permanent trajectory of economic and political stability."

She said the focus of the world was not only on the Philippine economic recovery but the way the country was making democracy work while keeping the threat of terror at bay.

Ms Arroyo said the passage of the antiterrorism law would "shield not only the people but our economy as well from the scourge of evil."

"I am glad that in his remarks, General Maligalig also talked about the many facets of human security," Ms Arroyo said as she went on to define two major components of human security—freedom from fear and freedom from want.

"This is our formula for enduring peace. You, our young soldiers, will spearhead the fight against terror in the same way that our young professionals and entrepreneurs are leading the fight against poverty while helping our people excel," she added.

Meet the Romeros: 3 generations of mistahs

From page A1

graduates since 1905, there have only been two families with genealogical succession involving three generations of PMA graduates.

"It occurred first in 1981 when Natalio Ecarma III, the son of Rodolfo Ecarma of Class 1954 and grandson of Natalio Ecarma Sr. of Class 1923, graduated. It occurred again in 1986 when Paulino Dumlao, son of Jose Dumlao of Class 1951 and grandnephew of Armando Dumlao of Class 1917, graduated from the PMA. This is only the third instance, with Cadet Romero, that the PMA shall have a third generation graduate."

2nd generation grads

Second generation graduates were more common in the academy.

Estrellado says that there were 131 fathers and sons who graduated from PMA. Given this number, it is safe to assume that there has been one in every batch.

In addition, there were seven families with four siblings who had graduated. The Andayas, Arevalos, Brawners, Maligaligs, Manlongats, Villacortes and Vinoyas.

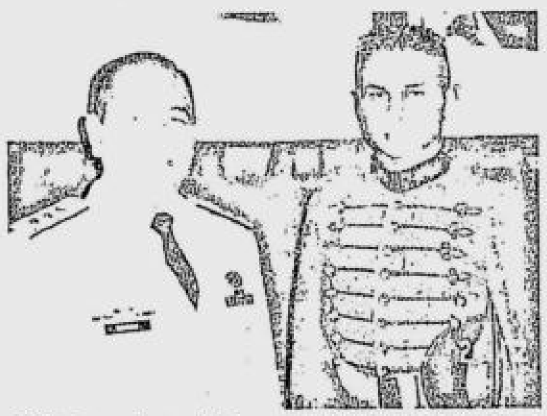
There were also 24 families with three siblings belonging to the long gray line.

The experience of being in the academy from one generation to another has been both similar and different in the ways that matter.

Romero II says that during his time in the academy, he could not discuss military matters with his father who was in fact already retired.

"It just was not discussed. Maybe it was because he was still a part of the old school," Romero II says.

BRIG. Gen. Antonio Romero Sr. of Class 1941



MAJ. Gen. Antonio Romero II (Class 1974) with son Marc Anthony Romero (Class 2007).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"I remember writing a letter to my mother one time, telling her about the time I received punishment for an infraction. My father wrote me back to say that I should refrain from writing those kinds of letters to my mother because it put her in tears. From then on, I never wrote about those things again."

Family support

The younger Romero has, on his own, decided to spare his mother from the details of his difficulties.

"He doesn't discuss those things with us," his mother Bechie says. However, the cadet shares an specially close bond with his parents—ties that, he himself says, helped him during his toughest days in the academy.

"My family has always been there for me and I am able to discuss my problems with them openly. In my first two months here I really just wanted to go home. When my parents came for my incorporation into the academy, I wanted to just quit and go back to Manila with them," he says.

In the end, his parents gave him the support that he needed to hang on and after his "Beast Barracks" days (the two-month period prior to his incorporation into the academy) there was no turning back for him.

"The biggest difficulty is being separated from your loved ones and having hardly any contact with them," he says. In the first year, cellular phones were not allowed and you were only permitted a limited time to use the pay phone to call long distance.

"You adjust eventually," Romero adds.

Pressure

He had entered the PMA at the age of 20, after spending two years at University of Santo Tomas where he was majoring in Electronics and Communications Engineering.

Is life harder in the academy for a second or third generation cadet?

Estrellado explains that the pressure on the children of cavaliers came mostly from upper classmen giving them more challenges.

"Knowing that I was my father's son really pushed me to do my best because I did not want to let my family down," says Romero.

Atong's plea bargain gets him 6 years in jail

From page A1

antigraft court.

Ang also agreed to return P25 million, his alleged share of tax kickbacks he was accused of diverting in a conspiracy with Estrada.

He pleaded guilty to corruption of a public official in relation to indirect bribery during his rearraignment.

In pleading guilty to the lesser offense, he avoided a possible sentence of up to 40 years—the maximum prison term for plunder.

Under the plea bargain, Ang also promised to testify for the state in cases he "has personal knowledge of."

Ang is the first to be convicted among the several accused in the 6-year-old plunder case against Estrada.

Estrada is accused of amassing about P4 billion in payoffs from illegal gambling and tobacco tax kickbacks and commissions. He also is charged with perjury for allegedly falsely declaring his assets.

Aside from Ang, Estrada's son Jinggoy, lawyer Edward Serapio, Eleuterio Tan, Yolanda Ricaforte, Delia Rajas and Alma Alfaro were named as coaccused in the plunder case.

The charge sheet said that of the P130 million in tobacco excise taxes diverted in 1998 from the coffers of Ilocos Sur, P70 million was allegedly pocketed by Estrada, P20 million went to Estrada's wife Luisa "Loi" Ejercito, P15 million to his son and P25 million to Ang, which he later admitted in the plea bargain agreement.

Asked by Presiding Justice Teresita Leonardo de Castro yesterday whether he gave the amount to a public officer, Ang replied "yes."

Assisted by his lawyers, Alfredo Villamor and Ruth Castelo, Ang also answered "yes" when asked if the public officer accepted the money.

Good enough

Malacañang welcomed the sentence handed by a special division of the Sandiganbayan.

"Since he pleaded guilty, justice is done," Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Sergio Apostol Jr. said.

ATONG Ang talks with jail guards before promulgation of his sentence by the Sandiganbayan on Monday.

JOAN BONDOC

"That is enough because of the mitigating circumstances," he said.

Ang's admission has strengthened the government's case against the deposed leader, who has been on trial for plunder since he was ousted in 2001, according to Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio.

But Estrada's lawyer, Rufus Rodriguez, said Ang's sentencing would have no effect on the former President's case.

"President Estrada expects an acquittal in his case," he said, adding Ang's admission "is completely false and untrue."

Swollen legs

For most of the duration of the proceedings, De Castro allowed Ang to sit on a swivel chair due to his swollen legs.

But before Ang pleaded guilty, De Castro, Associate Justices Francisco Villaruz Jr. and Diosdado Peralta took turns in questioning him again on whether he fully understood the plea bargain deal and its consequences.

Every question was translated into Filipino by a court interpreter as if to make sure that Ang fully comprehended what he was getting into.

"Do you understand that [by pleading guilty] you are subject to payment of civil indemnity?" asked De Castro.

"*Alam ko po* (I know) your honors ," Ang said.

"Do you understand that you have the right to plead not guilty ... and the right not testify against yourself?" De Castro further asked. Ang replied: "*Naiintindihan ko po* (I understand) your honors."

"... That you are pleading guilty voluntarily without being threatened [to do so]," the justice continued. "No one is threatening me, your honors," Ang said.

"Do you know that the court may ask you to pay the P25 million in cash?" De Castro asked.

Ang, who was slightly caught off guard, said he would find a way to comply with the court's ruling.

In the plea bargain agreement, Ang promised to waive his rights on his home in upscale Corinthian Gardens in Quezon City in lieu of the P25 million he promised to return to the government.

Cash payment

But the antigraft court yesterday said Ang must pay it in cash. "We will try to raise the P25 million," Castelo told reporters after the rearraignment.

Peralta said Ang must pay the P25 million within 15 days, or before the decision becomes final and executory. The court would only consider the motion only after a payment has been made.

Ang's lawyers also filed yesterday a petition asking the court to put him on probation and grant him temporary liberty after having served five years and four months in jail. *With a report from Juliet Labog-Javellana and AP*

Court orders arrest of Inquirer editors Mike A sued for libel

From page A1

them by Jose Miguel Arroyo, husband of the President.

Apart from Tulfo, ordered arrested by Judge Virgilio Alameda of Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 10 were INQUIRER publisher Isagani Yambot, editor in chief Letty Jimenez Magsanoc, managing editor Jose Ma. Nolasco, associate editor Abelardo Ulanday, associate editor for readership Rosario Garcellano, news editor Artemio Engracia, opinion editor Jorge Aruta, national editor Pergentino Bandayrel Jr. and senior desk editor Juan Sarmiento Jr.

Bail of P10,000 for each of the five counts of libel was recommended for the temporary liberty of each of the accused.

"The court hereby finds probable cause against the accused showing a reasonable belief that the crime of libel (five counts) has been committed and that the accused are probably guilty of the offenses charged," the judge said in his one-page March 15 order.

Lawyer Rey Inciong, the branch clerk of court, said copies of the warrants had been distributed to the Philippine National Police.

Yambot said the issuance of the warrant of arrest came as a surprise to the INQUIRER editors. It was so sudden that they did not have time to post bail, he said. He added that he expected bail to be posted for Tulfo and the nine INQUIRER editors this morning.

The multimillion-peso libel suit filed by Arroyo last year stemmed from several articles written by Tulfo which exposed the alleged smuggling activities of Vicky Toh and her brother. Toh had been romantically linked to Arroyo.

Tulfo claimed that the Tohs were virtually "untouchable" because they were protected by Arroyo.

"Tulfo's false accusation that I 'protect' the Tohs gives the public the wrong impression that I interfere in governmental affairs. It paints me as a meddling, 'power-brokering' and abusive individual who uses marital ties to the President for nefarious purposes," Arroyo said in his complaint.

Arroyo said that he had no illicit relationship with Toh and that he had never helped anyone evade taxes. He added that the Tohs had been officially exonerated by the Bureau of Customs of all tax and smuggling accusations.

Tulfo claimed that the President's husband was behind the cancellation of his and his brothers Raffy and Erwin's television program "Isumbong mo, Tulfo Brothers," on the government-sequestered station RPN-9.

Arroyo denied the allegation. He said that Tulfo's articles, which were published with actual malice, "injured and exposed him to public hatred, contempt and ridicule."

Help Negros tillers, bishops, others urge GMA

By TJ Burgonio

A MULTISECTORAL group led by bishops has joined the calls for President Macapagal-Arroyo to intervene and place 122 farmers in the land awarded to them in a Negros Occidental sugar plantation, after the Department of Agrarian Reform had repeatedly failed to install them.

Archbishop Antonio Ledesma asked Ms Arroyo in a March 16 letter to "take personal charge" in the installation of the 122 beneficiaries of a 144-hectare portion of Hacienda Velez-Malaga in La Castellana town.

In a paid ad scheduled to run today, Ledesma, Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, Archbishop Ramon Arguelles and others appealed to the President to order the immediate installation of the farmers, if only to end the hunger strike some of them are on.

"I'm hopeful the President will listen this time and install the farmers," Christian Monsod, a trustee of Task Force Mapalad (TFM), the farmers' umbrella organization, said in an interview. "The issue at hand involves agrarian reform and social justice."

Ledesma, vice president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, said the bishops were "deeply concerned" about the hunger strike that was spawned by the "impasse" in their installation in the hacienda, originally owned by Roberto Cuenca.

To protest the aborted installations, some beneficiaries pitched camp outside the DAR office in Quezon City on Feb. 20 and went on a hunger strike the next day. After Secretary Nasser Pangandaman failed to install them yet again on March 8, they vowed to fast to the death.

Pangandaman called off the installation, he had said, to prevent violence after a rival farmers' group had barricaded themselves in the plantation.

In the ad, the signatories also asked the President to replace Pangandaman with someone "capable of doing the basic job of a DAR secretary."

"The Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program is a flagship antipoverty program. President Arroyo should assure the Filipino farmers that CARP is still a priority program of her administration, and that they still have hope under this program," they said.

Signatories included Representatives Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel, Mario Aguja, Etta Rosales, Lorenzo Tañada III, Mujiv Mataman and Joel Villanueva; singer Gary Granada, filmmaker Ditsi Carolino and Monsod.

Court reinstates Sanchez

THE COURT OF APpeals has nullified the preventive suspension order issued by the Ombudsman against Batangas Gov. Armando Sanchez in relation to allegations of anomalies in the provincial government's real property tax computerization project.

In permanently stopping the government from enforcing the September 2006 six-month preventive suspension, the appellate court said the Ombudsman abused his discretion when it directed Sanchez to temporarily leave office.

But it said its decision was without prejudice to the continuation of the administrative case against Sanchez.

"There being a clear showing that respondent Office of the Ombudsman gravely abused its discretion in issuing the assailed 26 September 2006 preventive suspension order against petitioner Governor Armando C. Sanchez, the same is hereby declared null and void," the court.

The appellate court noted that very few preventive suspension orders were reversed. *Leila B. Salaverria, and Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

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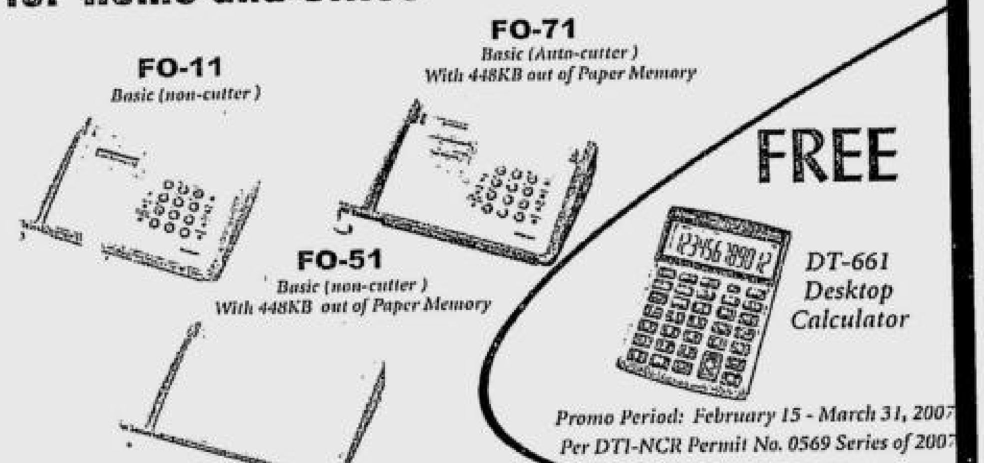

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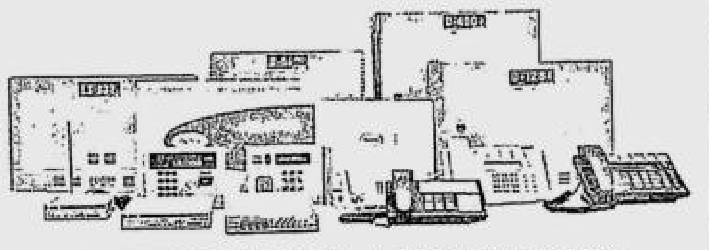

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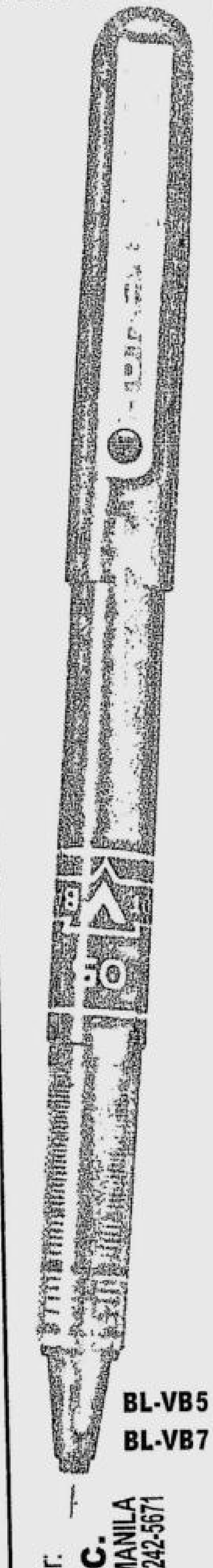

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Satur taken for a ride

From page A1

grounds that the Supreme Court had yet to hear on Friday (March 23) his petition challenging the legality of his arrest.

At one point during the 12-hour drama, or tragicomedy, police officials asked Ocampo to put on a bullet-proof vest, for his own safety, as they waited for the Cessna to take off from the Manila domestic airport for Tacloban City.

"I rejected it," Ocampo recounted. "I told them 'Who will shoot me? You are all here.'"

The authorities gave varying reasons for why the plane turned around. One Army officer said it was due to bad weather. The police said it was because they had finally received a copy of the judge's order allowing Ocampo to remain in Manila.

The seemingly heavyhanded manner in which Ocampo was taken to the airport coincided with growing international criticisms about the excesses of security forces in dealing with political opponents.

Ocampo was arrested Friday on charges of involvement in the alleged killings by communist rebels of suspected military spies in Leyte 22 years ago. At the time, Ocampo said, he was a prisoner of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

With Ocampo on the flight were his wife, retired University of the Philippines professor Carolina Malay, and fellow Bayan Muna Rep. Teddy Casiño. The plane took off around noon and landed back in Manila at about 2:30 p.m.

Earlier, at about 3 a.m., Ocampo was abruptly awakened in his detention room at the mezzanine of the Manila Police District's (MPD) General Assignments Section and told he was being flown to Leyte.

'Dark lords'

"What they told me was they were rushing me because I needed to be at the airport by 4 a.m. to catch a 6 a.m. flight ... This was a cloak-and-dagger operation," said Ocampo.

"The important question here is who are the dark lords behind this? Is it the Cabinet cluster committee on internal security? Is it the national security adviser? Is it the chief of the DND (Department of National Defense), or is it President Macapagal-Arroyo?" he said.

Ocampo resisted being taken to the airport and had to be bodily carried into a police van.

As the police struggled with him before television cameras and a mob of media people, Ocampo stiffened his body to prevent them shoving him inside the vehicle.

Ocampo demanded that his transfer to Leyte—supposed to be a routine return of the arrest warrant against him—be deferred until the Supreme Court had settled his petition protesting his arrest.

Ocampo, Communist Party of the Philippines founder Jose Ma. Sison and about 50 others have been charged with multiple murder following the discovery of 67 skeletal remains in Leyte.

"This is persecution ... I am being taken against my will," he said as he tried to ward off the police wrestling him away from media people at the police headquarters.

A frantic supporter screamed at the police.

"He has done nothing wrong," the woman shouted.

At the airport, the media people were initially given the impression that Ocampo would be taken to Tacloban in one of two police helicopters.

But the helicopters took off without him.

An hour later, news broke that the Leyte court had ordered the police to hold Ocampo's transfer until after the Supreme Court hearing on Friday.

The convoy of media people started to drive away, anticipating the police would heed the judge's order and take Ocampo back to MPD headquarters.

They were mistaken.

Without them realizing it, the police van carrying the Ocampos had slipped away and entered the hangar where the Cessna was waiting.

Police officials justified their decision to fly Ocampo to Leyte by saying that they had not received a copy of the judge's order.

Later, Philippine National Police Director General Oscar Calderon said the PNP received through fax a copy of the court order instructing the authorities to keep Ocampo in Manila.

"I called the airplane to return," Calderon said.

PNP spokesperson Chief Supt. Samuel Pagdilao said the court order had needed to be "verified and authenticated."

"Obviously, the PNP was under pressure to bring me to Leyte," Ocampo later said. "But the judge's order was for me to stay put in Manila until March 23."

Casiño said: "We just went for a ride and wasted fuel."

The other passengers on the Cessna were Senior Supt. Edward Sierra and a police doctor.

BAYAN Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo gives a statement to the media at the Western Police District headquarters in Manila shortly before being whisked to the airport for an early morning flight to Leyte.
NIÑO JESUS ORBETA

An early bird

Calderon said the police were duty-bound to present Ocampo before Judge Abando's court.

"(Otherwise), we will be charged for inaction," he said.

Seeking to justify the police attempt to fly Ocampo out, Calderon said: "We needed the hard copy (of Abando's order) and even the hard copy needed to be validated."

Ocampo felt fortunate that Judge Abando reports to work early.

"We appreciate that Judge Abando goes to his office early in the morning. He was already there at 8 a.m. We filed our petition and he granted our request," Ocampo told reporters.

In the Leyte town of Hilongos, where the charges against Ocampo had been filed before Abando's court, about 30 people gathered in a gym with placards reading: "Satur killer" and "Satur *demonyo* (demon)."

A man who had been seen in a military camp was coaching the crowd, asking them: "What will you do when you see Satur?"

The crowd, including relatives of those killed in the alleged communist purge in the 1980s, shouted back: "He should be lynched."

In Tacloban itself, pro- and anti-Ocampo groups engaged in a shouting match outside the airport where they had gathered believing that Ocampo would arrive.

The demonstrators were from Ocampo's Bayan Muna party-list group and the anticommunist Alliance of Nationalism and Democracy (Anad).

Anad included relatives of the alleged purge victims.

One side carried placards reading, "Free Satur, Oust GMA" and "Stop political repression."

The signs on the other side read: "Welcome Satur to Hilongos jail" and "Satur, *berdugo ng* (Butcher of) Leyte." ***With a report from Edson Tandoc, Ven Labro, Jani Arnaiz, Joey Gabieta and Cynthia Borgueta, Inquirer Visayas***

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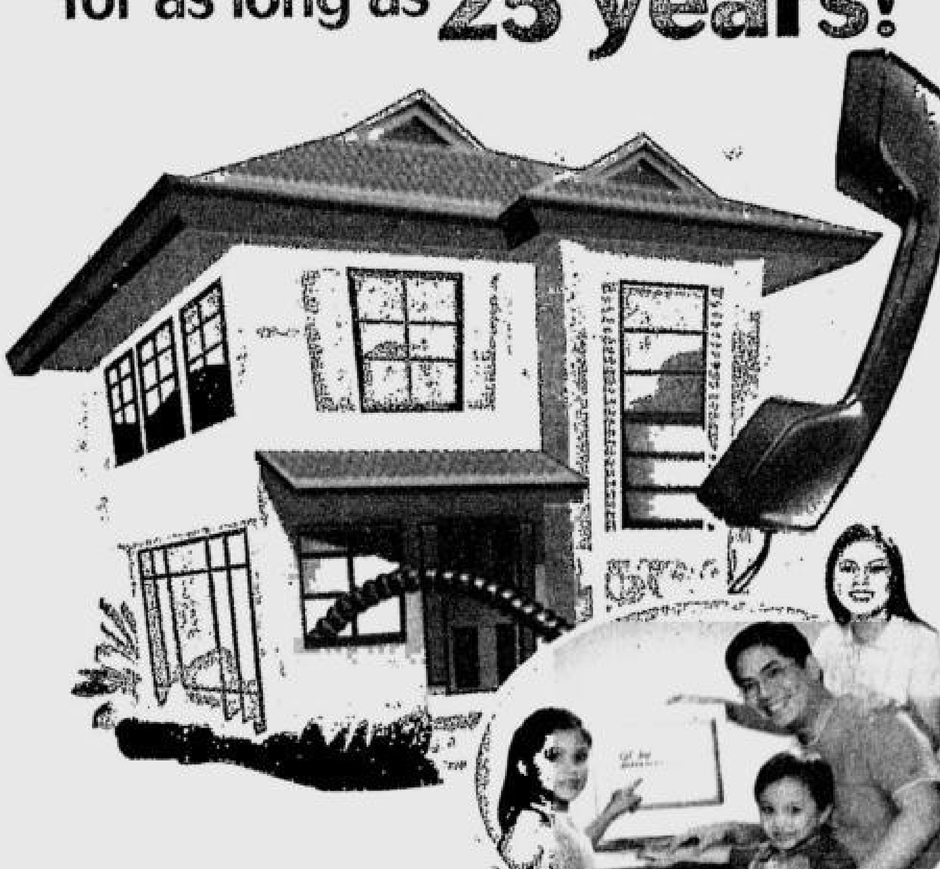

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Son cries but others are just plain

From page A1

erature Bienvenido Lumbera, movie directors Joel Lamangan and Carlitos Siguion-Reyna, Ang Ladlad president Danton Remoto, lawyers Rufus Rodriguez, Harry Roque and Lorna Kapunan, and members of the Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines.

"We have to give him justice now because he deserves justice!" former Vice President Teofisto Guingona told the gathering.

Reelectionist senators infuriated

Out on the campaign trail, reelectionist senators were infuriated by the Arroyo administration's shabby treatment of Ocampo.

Senate President Manuel Villar said he was shocked by the PNP's audacity in forcing Ocampo's transfer to Leyte against the court's advice.

"It's a cause for concern—the nerve of our authorities to think of doing (this)," said Villar, who interrupted his campaign to denounce the government's handling of the party-list congressman.

Make a stand

Villar said what was done to Ocampo could be done to other perceived dissidents.

"This is disheartening and scary because in the future this might also be done to ordinary citizens. We should make a stand. While we understand that anyone who commits a crime should be punished, everyone has rights, too, and we should protect these rights at all times, whether it's Ka Satur or someone else," he said.

Another senator, Panfilo Lacson, said he was "dismayed and angered by the administration's short-circuiting of procedures in forcibly bringing Ka Satur to Leyte in complete disregard of the court."

Lacson decried the administration's defiance of the order of Leyte Judge Ephrem Abando deferring Ocampo's transfer on the flimsy excuse that the PNP had not received any written order.

Lacson said it was clear that the administration was "hell-bent on harassing and intimidating members of the legitimate opposition" to ensure the "survival of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo from a third impeachment proceeding in the 14th Congress."

In a statement, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel condemned "the Gestapo treatment" of Ocampo by the police.

Persecution proven vote-getter

Even Sen. Ralph Recto, a Team Unity senatorial candidate, was appalled by the government's action.

"Satur Ocampo is not a flight risk, harboring no plans to go abroad or underground. So there is no reason that his travel arrangements to Leyte be done a lá Con Air," said Recto in a statement.

He said the government's action had actually backfired.

"If I were the government, I would go easy on Satur, because if the aim of arresting him is to prevent him from returning to Congress, then recent developments may have just guaranteed the opposite. Persecution is a proven vote-getter," Recto said.

(See related story on Page A2.)

UP law professor

At Club Filipino, Vickie Avena, a professor at the University of the Philippines' College of Law and a convenor of the "Solidarity Gathering," warned that what happened to Ocampo could befall others in the human rights movement and progressive organizations.

"Some of us are old enough to have experienced martial law," she said. "I never thought we would experience it twice in our lifetime. If we don't wake up and band together, there might be no third chance," Avena said.

Binay, Escudero, Pimentel

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay of the Genuine Opposition recalled one instance when he saw Ocampo at City Hall and was told: 'Jojo, it won't be long before you find yourself among those being charged."

Malacañang suspended Binay in October last year based on a complaint filed by a rival that he had padded the city payroll with more than 1,000 "ghost employees." Binay got a court order quashing the suspension order.

"We're here to fight for the real spirit of democracy," Binay told Ocampo's supporters, who included GO senatorial candidates Francis Escudero and Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III.

Escudero left soon after the "photo op" with Binay, San Juan Mayor Jose Victor Ejercito and Representatives Liza Maza of Gabriela, Rafael Mariano of Anakpawis and Gilbert Remulla of Cavite.

Tañada

Former Sen. Wigberto Tañada condemned the manner by which the government implicated Ocampo in the alleged "purging" of suspected government spies in Leyte 22 years ago and worked for the issuance of an arrest warrant until the lawmaker was eventually arrested.

"This is not the way to strengthen our democracy and freedom," Tañada said. "This is not the way to peace, to justice and truth. Let us all wake up because what's happening to our friends may also happen to us."

Radical solutions to global warming pos

From page A1

In the book, mice had infested the castle of a cheese-loving king. So the king brought in cats to get rid of the mice. Then the castle was overrun with cats, so he brought in dogs to get rid of them, then lions to get rid of the dogs, elephants to get rid of the lions, and finally, mice to get rid of the elephants.

That scenario in "The King, the Mice and the Cheese," by Nancy and Eric Gurney, should give scientists pause before taking extreme measures to mess with Mother Nature, says Weaver of the University of Victoria.

In recent months, however, several scientists have been considering doing just that.

Far-fetched solutions

They are exploring global warming solutions that sound wholly far-fetched, including giant artificial "trees" that will filter carbon dioxide out of the air, a bizarre "solar shade" created by a trillion flying saucers that will lower Earth's temperature, and a scheme that mimics a volcano by spewing light-reflecting sulfates high in the sky.

These are costly projects of last resort—in case Earth's citizens do not cut back fast enough on greenhouse gas emissions and the worst of the climate predictions appear not too far away.

Unfortunately, the solutions could cause problems of their own—beyond their exorbitant costs—including making the arid Middle East even drier and polluting the air enough to increase respiratory illnesses.

Kevin Trenberth, climate analysis chief at the US National Center for Atmospheric Research, said mankind had already harmed Earth's climate inadvertently.

So, according to Trenberth, it is foolish to think that people can now fix the problem with a few drastic measures.

Mock volcano idea

But at Trenberth's research center, climate scientist Tom Wigley is exploring the mock volcano idea.

"It's the lesser of two evils here (the other being doing nothing)," Wigley said. "Whatever we do, there are bad consequences, but you have to judge the relative badness of all the consequences."

Studying the concept of how volcanic pollutants could lessen global warming—the Earth was slightly cooler after the eruption of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines 16 years ago—was brought to the forefront of scientific debate last summer by Nobel Laureate Paul Crutzen.

"It was meant to startle the policymakers," said Crutzen, of Germany's Max Planck Institute for Chemistry. "If they don't take action much more strongly than they have in the past, then in the end, we have to do experiments like this."

In the past, scientists and others have avoided talking publicly about these ideas, known as "geoengineering," even though the concept was first raised in 1965. They worried that the hope of a quick technological fix to global warming would prevent politicians and the public from making the real energy sacrifices that they say are necessary to slow climate change.

Not a substitute

David Keith, a University of Calgary engineering professor and one of the world's experts in geoengineering, said that just because tinkering with the air, water and sunlight was possible, that should not be a substitute for cutting emissions just because "we've been politically weak-kneed."

Instead, he said, such options should be researched as an "insurance policy" in case global warming is even worse than forecast. And that prospect has caused climate scientists to talk about the issue more openly in recent months.

There is also a chance that discussion

Palace hand seen in Ocampo snafu

From page A1

The officials asked not to be identified because of the sensitive nature of their positions in the government.

The date of the closed-door meeting could not be ascertained. Some sources said the group had met as recently as Friday.

Other Palace insiders said the group also met about three weeks ago, or before a Leyte judge issued the order for Ocampo's arrest.

The Army claimed the murders were committed 22 years ago. The skeletal remains were found in August last year.

A Palace official privy to the closed-door discussions said among those present at the latest meeting were Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, Defense Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane, Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno and Solicitor General Agnes Devanadera.

Puno opposed

There was initial opposition from Puno to the transfer of Ocampo, according to the Palace official.

The official said Puno had warned that moving Ocampo to Leyte could be used by the Left to gain publicity mileage and by Ocampo's party-list group, Bayan Muna, to attract more votes in the coming elections.

Those opposed to the transfer were overruled.

It was at that meeting that the decision to move Ocampo to Leyte was taken, said the official.

Those who pushed for Ocampo's transfer were Ermita, Devanadera, Raul Gonzalez and Norberto Gonzales, a member of the Partido Demokratiko Sosyalista ng Pilipinas (PDSP), according to one of the officials. The PDSP espouses an ideology counter to that of Satur's group.

But Brian Yamsuan, interior assistant secretary, said the decision to transfer Ocampo was unanimous and there were no dissenting opinions during the cluster meeting.

"It was a discussion on the rule of law," said Yamsuan, speaking in behalf of Puno.

Yamsuan confirmed that Ocampo's case was also discussed in the Cabinet, but only because the officials wanted to determine which agency should handle Ocampo's case.

Malacañang yesterday denied it had a hand in the case, but defended the filing of murder charges against Ocampo, saying the police and the courts were observing due process.

A former Cabinet official contacted by groups supportive of Ocampo said the division in the Cabinet over whether or not to detain Ocampo in Leyte was deep.

The ex-Cabinet member said Puno was among those opposed to pushing the murder cases against Ocampo and other leftist leaders, including self-exiled communist leader Jose Ma. Sison.

Who owns the plane?

But a Palace source said it was Puno who facilitated the use of the private jet that flew Ocampo and his police escorts to Leyte then back to Manila yesterday.

The jet was owned by Pacific Sunrise, a company headed by Puno's brother, Rene, according to the INQUIRER source.

Another source said top Philippine National Police officials were also against the transfer of Ocampo to Leyte as this would be bad propaganda for the Arroyo administration, which was accused in a recent US Senate investigation of not doing enough to stop the continuing series of summary executions of leftist leaders and activists.

Others went along

Another INQUIRER informant confirmed there were divisions among Ms Arroyo's advisers on what to do with Ocampo.

"We learned that Raul Gonzalez and Norberto Gonzales were insistent on the transfer to Leyte," said the informant. "Ebdane and Devanadera went along later."

The informant described the discussions as "*matindi*" (intense).

Gonzales told the INQUIRER he was informed by PNP Director General Oscar Calderon as early as Sunday night of the impending transfer of Ocampo.

"I don't know," he said when asked whether Ms Arroyo was notified of the decision.

Ocampo, who "claims to be propoor," should undergo the same "procedure" being experienced by ordinary people, insisted Gonzales.

"The law favors no one," he said.

Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Sergio Apostol denied Malacañang had ordered Ocampo's transfer to Leyte, saying it was a judicial matter and "the President will not interfere."

Apostol said he did not know who issued the transfer order.

Apostol confirmed that some members of the Cabinet had met over the weekend but disagreed on how to go about the transfer. He said Ms Arroyo had no comment on the case because it was already in the courts.

Gonzales said no law was violated in the government decision to bring Ocampo to the Leyte court that had ordered the arrest.

"It's part of the process. The (police) were duty-bound to bring him to where the warrant was issued," he said.

'A big headache'

He said the government was only proving it had the political will to uphold the law.

On Ocampo's pending petition in the Supreme Court questioning his arrest, Gonzales said: "*Malaki nga sakit ng ulo namin dyan* (That's really a big headache for us)."

But Ocampo has to face the judge, he said.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. defended the decision to fly Ocampo to Leyte in the early hours of Monday.

"Let's not give any color to that," Esperon said in Filipino. "Isn't it good to do things early, rather than late? As a responsible congressman or a high official, he should answer the charges since there is a warrant of arrest [out for him]," he stressed. *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac and Juliet L. Javellana*

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mad

The solidarity movement is set to hold a nationwide protest action tomorrow to further generate support for Ocampo's petition during the oral arguments before the Supreme Court on Friday.

Ocampo's camp had filed a petition for certiorari and prohibition against the arrest warrant issued by Leyte Judge Abando.

Crispin Beltran

One supporter from the University of the Philippines suggested that the new movement put up posters demanding the release of Ocampo and fellow party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran in schools, churches, hospitals and offices.

Like Ocampo, Beltran, who is detained at the Philippine Heart Center on rebellion charges, was seen by supporters as a victim of political repression.

Kapunan urged fellow supporters to also look into the alleged repression in the context of the new antiterrorism law (Human Security Act). "If Satur is not a victim under the antiterrorism law, I don't know what you call him."

Ocampo's lawyer, Romeo Capulong, said the government didn't need to revive the Marcosian antisubversion law, noting that the one against terrorism was "worse."

Traveling skeletons

Capulong gave participants a detailed summary of the case against the lawmaker, including the "case of the traveling skeletons."

The 67 skeletal remains found in Inopacan, Leyte, in August 2006—the basis of the murder charge against the lawmaker—were actually recycled bones earlier found in peripheral areas, according to Capulong.

"In the end, truth and justice will prevail," he said. "The political support and action are strong on the side of the aggrieved party." *With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Dona Pazzibugan*

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e bigger risks

of such radical ideas as a volcano or sun shade could shock the world into acting to reduce fossil fuel emissions, Keith said.

However, White House science adviser Jack Marburger said spending money on geoengineering did not make sense. The US government, which spends about $2 billion (euro1.5 billion) a year on climate change science, invests nearly all of its research on energy sources that produce fewer or no greenhouse gas emissions.

"I don't think it's scientifically feasible at this time to consider a plan like that (geoengineering)," Marburger told The Associated Press. "The real urgency is to reduce carbon dioxide."

Some promise

In 2001, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change looked at geoengineering as part of its report on how to lessen global warming. It found some promise, worried about unexpected side effects and legal and ethical implications, and concluded that "unlike other strategies, geoengineering addresses the symptoms rather than the causes of climate change."

Even proponents of geoengineering research are wary.

"We are playing with fire here," Keith said. "Those of us suggesting we do something are suggesting it with real nervousness." *AP*

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Still in denial

EDITORIAL

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO THE OTHER day said that she remained unperturbed by criticisms from some US officials and lawmakers about the extrajudicial killings and intended to keep her focus on the country's "plus points."

In a speech at the inauguration of the Sulipan Bridge in Apalit, Pampanga, she said that the Philippines was "keeping pace with the world in all aspects of economic and political stability, shoring up the welfare of the people, expanding democratic space and hitting hard on the terrorists. "Political issues were for Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye to answer," she added.

The President's latest statements indicate that she, like her favorite Cabinet members and top generals, continues to be in denial on the issue of extrajudicial killings. Except for some general statements that she was acting on the matter, the President has not done anything concrete to put a stop to the political killings.

She was perturbed enough by judicial or court-ordered executions to push for a measure abolishing the death penalty but she remains unperturbed by the rising number of political killings. The running total is 834 by the militants' count and 296 by the INQUIRER count. Pressure from various sources, including the European Union, the United States, Canada and the UN Special Rapporteur, have not prompted the President to take stronger measures to put a stop to the killings.

The President says she would rather focus on the "plus points" like fiscal discipline, productivity and excellence and foreign investments. But are these the most important things in a nation's life? Is not life the most important and most precious thing? Should not the unjust and unjustified taking of even one human life be a cause of concern to the leader of a supposedly civilized, Christian nation?

The President said "political issues" were for her spokesperson to answer, and obviously she considers the matter of extrajudicial killings a political issue. She will not take questions about this. But as President of the country, she has the overall responsibility to attend to all its problems—economic, political, social, security, etc. She cannot sweep the issue of extrajudicial killings under the rug and pretend that the problem does not exist.

Ironically, the President said in her latest statement that the Philippines is "expanding democratic space." What is she talking about? Every year, every month, every week, democratic space is being constricted by the increasingly repressive Arroyo administration which is now being compared with the Marcos dictatorship in degree of repressiveness.

Were it not for an assertive and right-thinking Supreme Court, the nation would have lost a great part of its "democratic space" in the last two years of the Arroyo administration. It is a good thing the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the people and of human rights when it struck down Proclamation 1017 placing the country under a state of national emergency, the calibrated preemptive response and Executive Order 464 which banned executive officials from appearing before the committees of the Senate and the House.

How can democratic space be said to be "expanding," when people—leftists, militants and activists—are being killed for holding progressive, pro-people views? The framers of the 1987 Constitution precisely included a provision on party-list groups to encourage leftist militants to go above ground and to wage their struggle in the legislature.

During the Corazon Aquino and succeeding administrations, the party-list groups flourished but now the repressive Arroyo administration would turn back the hands of the political clock and bring back the Marcos era which saw the arrest, persecution, torture, involuntary disappearances and killings of hundreds of militants. Expanding democratic space, indeed!

Focus on the "plus points," particularly advances in the economy. This is fine for everybody; we need to give big push to our economy which has lagged behind most of the Asian countries. But while attending to the economy, the President should not leave some of the problems in the hands of certain people, like the generals. She has to assert civilian supremacy. She has to rein in the generals and put a stop to the extrajudicial killings which have been blamed mostly on the military by almost every reputable organization, including the Melo Commission which she appointed. Or is the President still in control?

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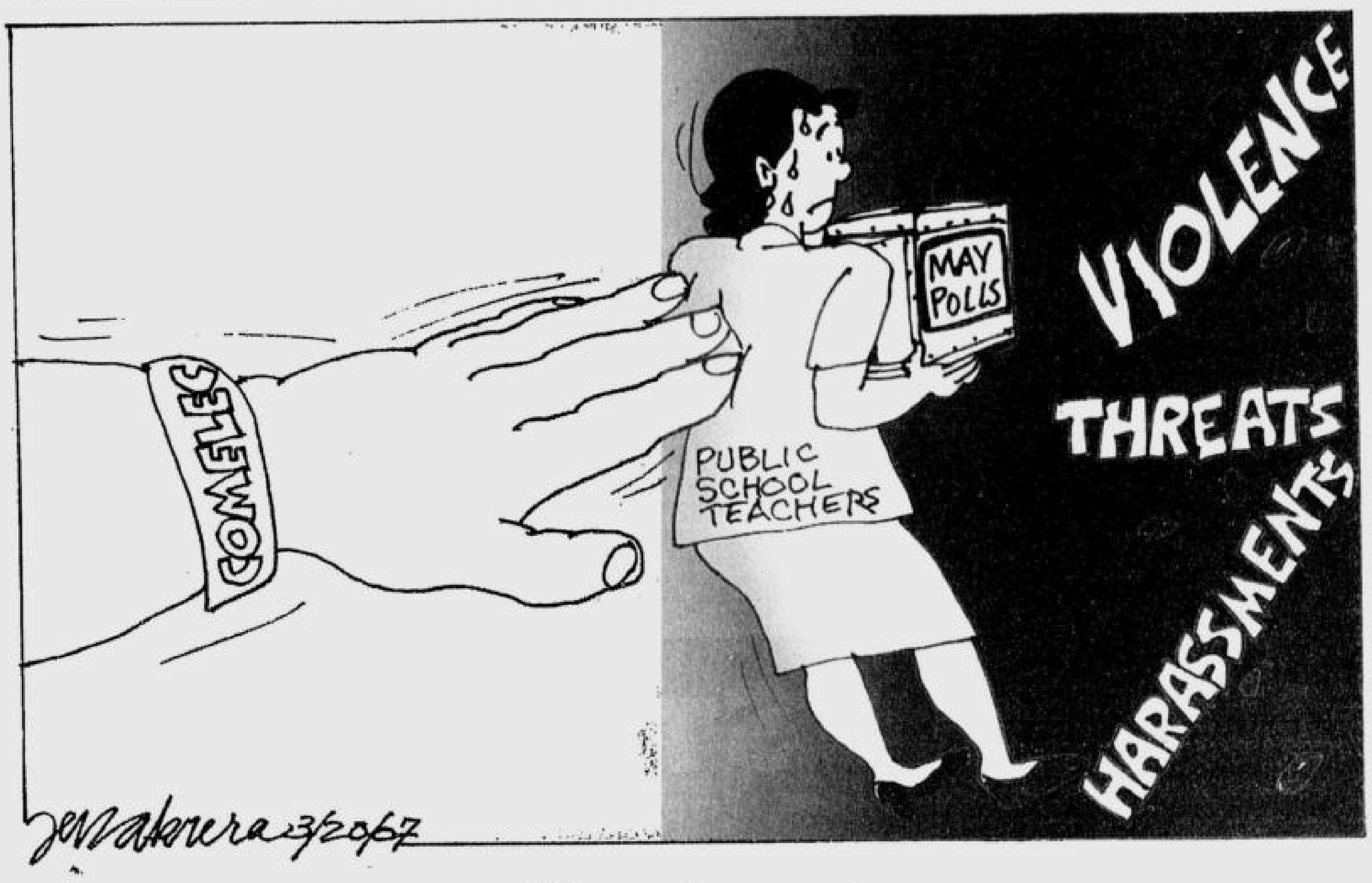
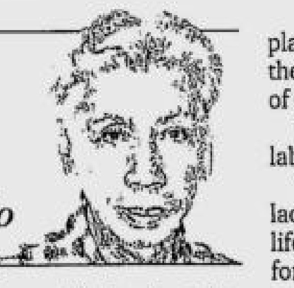


'Burnt men'

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado



GUIMARAS—"ARE YOU WRITING ABOUT the oil spill's aftermath or Guimaras mangoes," a friend asked as our rickety pumptboat, one of 123 that ply Iloilo waters, steered for this island (population: 141,450). "Neither," I said, and we laughed.

For the weekend, the wife and I switched off our cell phones, laptop, deadlines, politicians, crooks, etc. "Come aside to a quiet place and rest a while" remains time tested counsel. And Our Lady of the Philippines abbey in Guimaras fits the bill.

This is a Cistercian of the Strict Observance monastery. This is an 11th-century order of monks who devote their lives to work, prayer and study, mostly in silence. Reforms at La Trappe, France in the 16th century saw them dubbed as "Trappists."

Pointing to rows of mangoes, guavas and pineapples along the road to San Miguel, the driver said, "Planted by the Trappists who process the harvest."

They also grow rice and vegetables for their use—and guests. Their gatehouse store sells excellent jams and cookies. "You are really a monk if you live from the work of your hands," the Rule of St. Benedict says.

In 1972, Sen. Oscar Ledesma gave a 70-plus hectare land to six Trappists from the United States. The low-key Ledesma served as city mayor, commerce secretary and ambassador to the US. Yet, he kept his multiple charities away from photo ops. "The perfect gentleman," said Lorenzo Tañada who was not given to idle praise.

But did an English literature class spark these visits here? I wondered as our car drove into the abbey. Tall trees planted by the monks now tower where once there was sterile scrub land.

"Put aside 'Macbeth' for now, gentlemen," our Jesuit teacher said. Instead, he read descriptions of Kentucy's Our Lady of Gethsemane monastery. They were excerpts from "Seven Storey Mountain," written by Columbia University professor Thomas Merton. The book, at that time, led The New York Times' top 10 list.

Merton showed you the little-seen insides of a Trappist monastery, including the chanting of the Divine Office by white-cowled monks at 2:30 a.m. (The monks retire at 7:15 p.m.) He writes of the same men working the land, scorched by the sun, in silence.

In Guimaras, anybody so minded can slip into the church in pre-dawn darkness and listen to "Lection Divina" in English plain chant: "This my son was dead and is alive again. He was lost and is found."

Merton wrote first from the visitors' pews. Years later as Father Louis, he walks the reader in his book "The Sign of Jonah" through the midnight "Fire Watch." This is a nightly inspection against fires, from dank cellar to moonlit belfry.

"The (monastery) was lost in the all-absorbing silence and solitude of the fields," Merton wrote. "I stepped into the moonlit court and listened to the silence that enfolded me and spoke louder...than any voice."

"In the dark church," he continued, Mass was beginning at many side altars, caves of dim candle light... What a thing Mass becomes in hands hardened by gruelling sacrificial labor in poverty.... Faint gold fire flashed from the shadowy flanks of upraised chalices."

"Hidden in the anonymity of their cowls, these men burn themselves out for (others) who will never know them on earth," Merton explained the contemplative vocation. "This holds the nation together.... They win for it the grace of God."

What drives such men to solitude, gruelling labor and prayer?

There are 28 monks in Guimaras—from Bulacan, Bohol, Cebu and Leyte. Yet, the austere life attracts others. "This is the vocation of transforming union," a monk explains.

This is abstract. Seven Trappists massacred in 1966 by the Armed Islamic Group in the now-abandoned Our Lady of Atlas Monastery in Algiers may give some light. "I do not desire this death," explained the abbott, Fr. Christian de Cherge, in a letter opened after the killings. "But I should like, when the time comes, to have a space of lucidity ... to forgive with all my heart the one who will strike me down."

Father de Cherge addressed his killer as "my last-minute friend." He wrote: "[You] would not have known what you were doing. Yes, for you, too, I say this thank you and commend you to the God in whose face I see yours. May we find each other, happy 'good thieves' in Paradise, if it pleases God, the Father of us both."

Cardinal Philippe Barbarin, archbishop of Lyons, says four Trappist from France, Spain, Algeria and Poland are now learning the language. They plan to open Our Lady of Atlas monastery.

Sunday evening, a breeze whisks a handful of stray bougainvilla petals across the waxed Guimaras church floor. In their white cowls, the monks bow and chant vespers. The lector reads an excerpt from "Seeds of Contemplation," written by Merton before his death in Bangkok while studying Asian monasticism:

"Your solitude will bear immense fruit in the souls of men you will never see on earth. That they may learn to know the Christ of the burnt men"—whether in Algeria, Japan, Kentucky or Guimaras.

(Email: juanlmercado@gmail.com)

The outlaw

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

HERMOGENES ESPERON IS HAPPY THAT Satur Ocampo has been arrested by the police and wants to go even farther. He wants the Communist Party of the Philippines outlawed all over again. The Anti-Subversion Law, which deemed the CCP an outlaw organization, was laid to rest in 1992, making it possible for members, ex or current, real or imagined, to go about their daily business without fear of arrest so long as they are not carrying firearms or inciting others to rebellion. Esperon wants that law exhumed. He wants communists, ex or current, self-professed or tagged so by the AFP, to be arrested on sight for being criminals.

If this is done, he says, they can reduce the rebel strength, currently estimated by the AFP at 7,000, by half. The insurgency, he boasts, will have become irrelevant by the time GMA leaves in 2010.

It's another display of what government officials, civilian or military, real or imagined, are fast developing a talent for, which is idiocy. At the very least, what is wrong with it is that, like Norberto Gonzales pontificating on national security, Esperon is saying it. The GMA-appointed AFP chief has no business telling this country what constitutes a threat to it. The Garci-named AFP chief has no business telling this country which organizations should be outlawed and which people should be put behind bars.

I myself know a law that has never been repealed and that has been cherished by Filipinos since time immemorial, or at least since we thought to make democracy our way of life. That is the law that says you may not cheat in elections, or help someone cheat in the elections. I know a law we have always deemed to hold sway within our borders, or at least since Andres Bonifacio and Jose Rizal taught us to equate freedom with life itself. That is the law that says no government may exist without a mandate from the governed—a government like that is not a government, it is a tyranny. I know a law that's etched permanently in our statute books and in the conscience of our race, at least since we took plain sanity to be our natural human condition. That is the law that says that a president and her men caught stealing the vote should not be punished with Malacañang, they should be rewarded with Muntinlupa.

An entity that rules that way is not a duly constituted authority, it is a coup regime. People who rule that way are not public officials, they are outlaws.

Well, at least we no longer need to outlaw them, they already are. We may not be able to hold them in detention as of yet, but we may continue to hold them in contempt until then.

Indeed, such is the topsy-turvy country we live in today that outlaws have become the dispensers of laws and the dispensers of justice. You don't need to go far to see it, you need only look at the AFP. The only two living recipients of the AFP's Medal of Honor, the highest award accorded a soldier for showing bravery over and above the call of duty, are in jail for trying to right wrongs. And all the generals (and civilians) named in the "Hello Garci" tape, the lowest ignominy to attach to anyone, man, woman or beast, have been delivered to the highest echelons of power for trying to wrong right. Or forget trying to wrong right, for actually wreaking it.

Esperon is the best person to tell us about outlaws and in-laws? Only in the sense that Virgilio Garcillano is the best person to tell us about cheating and fair play.

But far more than that, why was the Anti-Subversion Law repealed to begin with? It was so out of recognition of three things. One was that it was a cornerstone of dictatorial rule, the concept of subversion there blurring the lines between sedition and dissent. Two was that after the Fall of the (Berlin) Wall, in particular the only things that were fuelling the insurgency were hunger and injustice—the ideology was gone—both of which could, and should, be met with food and justice and not guns and bullets. And three was that the insurgents could be shown another way of pursuing their cause, which was parliamentary struggle, the demonstrable superiority of which would eventually make armed struggle superfluous.

The insurgents, ex or current, real or imagined, have taken the parliamentary path. The citizens have clearly embraced them by voting for them, chief of them the leaders of Bayan Muna, in the elections. And the winners have sought to address their and the nation's grievances through Congress, notably by trying to rectify the most glaring injustice in this country since the Spaniards shot Rizal to death, which is a president brazenly passing off stealing the vote as a lapse of judgment.

Who the hell cares if Esperon and ilk reduce the NPA strength to half by 2010? The clear and present danger to the republic is not the insurgency, the clear and present danger to the republic is an illegitimate government. The insurgency can only remind a people who prefer to solve their problems by becoming nurses abroad that there is a country waiting to be nursed back to health. An illegitimate government can only lead to dictatorship.

At least the rebels are fighting out of hunger and desperation. This government is ruling out of a hunger for power and a desperate need to cling to it. There is no truth to the rumor that the best way to eradicate poverty is by eradicating the poor.

But in the end, where Esperon lies through his teeth is when he says that with the restoration of the Anti-Subversion Law, the insurgency will be irrelevant by the time GMA leaves in 2010. The lie is not that the insurgency will become irrelevant by 2010. The lie is that GMA will leave by 2010.

With fascist propositions like restoring the Anti-Subversion Law, who says she ever will?

On being 100

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

A MEMBER OF EUROPEAN ROYAL IS IN TOWN to usher a program that would hook up the country deeper into the global intellectual circuit for the promotion of "a culture of peace and development in a globalized world." Prince Alfred of Liechtenstein, who is chair, CEO and board member of various companies engaged in engineering, investment, trading, banking and consultancy, also chairs the advisory board of the Vienna-based International Peace Foundation (IPF). Last Friday, he launched in Makati the first Asean-wide event series, called "Bridges: Dialogues Toward a Culture of Peace," with 50 major events to run continuously across our islands alone from November up to April next year. The guest list was a virtual who's who in the local education and NGO fields.

* * *

Over a 6-month period IPF's continuing dialogue will bring to Manila about 21 Nobel Laureates in the fields of Economics, Peace, Physics, Chemistry and Medicine. It should be a mutually enriching interaction with leading educational institutions across our country as well as the Departments of Foreign Affairs and Science and Technology. IPF has carried out more than 700 programs in education in Europe. Recently it hosted 250 events with 26 Nobel Laureates in Thailand, presided over by Queen Sirikit and Princess Sirindhorn. For the RP program, President Macapagal-Arroyo, who received the Prince at the Palace last Saturday, offered to host a dinner for the two laureates in Economics, her field, namely professors Finn Kydland of the University of California in Sta. Barbara and Robert Mundell of Colombia University, and said perhaps some functions could even be held there.

* * *

The affable pony tail-sporting royal, who wore to Manila the same blue barong that Heherson and Cecile Alvarez gifted him with when he first came during the Ramos presidency, had pertinent and evocative words for his local audience. He said, with a smile, that he dreamed not too long ago that God had called him to His home and asked him what he did with his life. Alfred cited such things as chairing his companies and engaging in stock IPOs, as well as marrying the girl he met in Manila. God said, okay, so what else? Racking his brains, Alfred then said that lately he has turned to examining his inner self and paying more attention to his family. God was pleased and said, "Now you're talking." Alfred also said he worked for peace in the world and God broke out in smile. That was when he woke up and realized that ultimately, caring for one's fellowman, being responsive to the things of the spirit and working for peace in the world are what truly matters.

* * *

As he turned 79 last Sunday, former President Ramos set as his "last goal" reaching 100 years. I know how envious FVR must feel. Just a few days ago my uncle, engineer Carlos Olivares Berroya, celebrated his 100th birthday at an Ortigas hotel ballroom and it was such a grand feeling even for his relatives. Tio Carlito is the first cousin of my late father, Luis Olivares Sr., and they were both very handsome and close to each other (my father stayed with their family while studying law in Manila). The centenarian had a grand celebration with his nine children, all successful professionals, and their spouses, 23 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren (his wife, the former Felicitation Bacolod, passed away 11 years ago) and relatives from Laguna and other provinces.

Tio Carlito now moves about in a wheelchair, though he is helped to take short walks so his limbs won't atrophy. But his memory remains phenomenal. At the party, he called out relatives he hadn't seen for a long time, zeroing in especially on Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, "son of my beloved cousin, National Penitentiary Director Alfredo Bunye, a good man." No Alzheimer's whatsoever. His secret, as his daughter Paloma Berroya-Papa pointed out, is that he always solved mathematical problems the long way and **never with calculators, and even in his advanced years he always worked on crossword puzzles. His attitude in life also helped: until recent years, during his birthday celebrations, he saw to it that he danced with all the ladies.**

* * *

Tio Carlito was a civil engineering graduate of UP and Mapua and a board topnotcher when World War II erupted. He served in Bataan as a captain in the USAFFE Corps of Engineers and after its fall, he was captured by the Japanese. Bloated with beriberi, he survived the 36-km Death March from Orani, Bataan, to San Fernando, Pampanga, from where the survivors were loaded onto wagons "together with the horses" and brought to Capas for eight months in the concentration camp.

When the war ended, my father and Tio Carlito's brothers, Isidro and Elias Berroya, fetched him from Capas and he stayed at our house for a while to recover his health. Later he spent a long fruitful career as a ranking official of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, free of controversy or corruption, like most bureaucrats of that time. With his MWSS salary and income from teaching at Adamson University, and a simple and frugal lifestyle, Tio Carlito managed to educate all his children—three doctors, a PhD, an architect, several banking and business administration graduates, and a PMA graduate who became a one-star army general.

* * *

At the party, Tio Carlito enjoyed the film on his life lovingly put together by his children and grandchildren. When he took the microphone, he recalled that when he was very young, he asked his mother, Rafaela Olivares Berroya, when exactly was he born. She said on March 9, 1907 at 9 a.m. in their home in San Pedro, Laguna. "Today it's March 9, 2007, a hundred years later. This means I'm now 100 years old. Imagine that, I'm 100 years old ... 100 years old," he whispered over and over, as he thanked God for the incredible blessings of long life, health and family. Years ago I told him I wanted to tape his recollections of the war and the Death March, for an eventual memory book, but I never got around to it. At the party I told him we'll have to do it soon and he said, okay, any time.

Weekend in the old hometown

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

AND HOW DID YOUR WEEKEND GO? THE DAY after arriving from a week-long trip to Bangkok, my husband and I were driving up to Pangasinan to attend the annual fiesta of Alaminos, Pangasinan, my mother's birthplace and thus our hometown, although it is today a city that bears only a superficial resemblance to the quiet town we all remember from childhood.

I had come mainly to receive posthumous awards for my father, Ernesto Jimenez, but also to meet with my surviving maternal uncles: Tio Tom (and his wife, Tita Remy) and Tio Ted Braganza, who were visiting from the US. Some cousins of mine had also made the trip from Manila so it was a busy, noisy weekend as well, as we exchanged reminiscences, jokes, jibes and good feelings.

The annual fiesta has been dubbed a "Global Homecoming," as invitations had been sent to Alaminos folk from all over the world. The celebrations were meant not just to welcome home townsfolk who had found homes all around the world, but also to generate interest in and links to the old hometown, by way of tourism, since the town is the home of the world-famous Hundred Islands, and investments in commerce and agricultural development.

I barely had time to get out of my travel clothes and put on a fancier outfit for the first night's activity: the 60th Anniversary of Great Plebeian College, as well as its Alumni Homecoming. My father, as the founder of Great Plebeian, was receiving an award for his vision of an institution of higher learning for the children of poor families in Alaminos and environs. I was there to receive the plaque on behalf of the family, though I had my husband with me as well as my sister-in-law Coratec and Rommel Apigo, son of our sister Neneng and our parents' oldest grandchild. Although, when I met my uncle Ben Labayen, who had been Papa's best friend and had in fact introduced him to my mother, Tio Ben laughingly recalled how my Papa and he had talked endlessly about founding a school but that nothing came of their talk because neither of them had any capital to start it. "So we got the money from your Papa's in-laws, the Braganzas, and that is how Plebeian started!" Tio Ben said, guffawing.

So while Papa may have had the vision and the drive to found Great Plebeian, credit must be given to my Lola Eming and to her children for betting on and facilitating his dream.

* * *

MY COUSINS, though had concerns other than nostalgia on their minds. Taking advantage of the occasion, senatorial candidates Richard Gomez and Migz Zubiri had (separately) chosen to drop by Alaminos and were in fact in the seaside barrio of Lucap. Also with them were entertainers brought in by telecoms company "Talk 'N Text," and my male cousins were particularly interested in meeting the charming Miss Ruffa Mae Quinto.

And so, soon after the Plebeian affair ended, we drove to Lucap and found, to our dismay, the road blocked by a wall of people and vehicles leaving the Lucap pantalan (wharf), since the show cum rally had just ended. It took us quite some time to complete the short distance, but our effort was well worth it, I think.

* * *

WE FOUND at the restaurant on the whaif City Mayor Nani Braganza, who is officially my uncle but who insists on calling me "Tita," as he did right in front of Goma and Migz, thereby destroying whatever fantasies I might have nursed about passing myself off as a bagets fan to the two gorgeous men.

Goma was gracious and unfailingly good humored, thanking me for showing up and introducing him to my relatives "even if you're not in favor of my candidacy." I immediately denied this, though I did remember belatedly the many times I had sniped at him on this space. Migz, on the other hand, immediately remembered how I had written glowingly of his wife Audrey, and shared that while he knew his wife was used to the limelight, being a VJ, "I never thought she would take so enthusiastically to being a politician's wife."

Sadly for the men in our party, neither of the two candidates' wives were present, campaigning elsewhere.

But, there was still Ruffa Mae to look forward to, and though they had to leave for the "Street Party" in the town proper, Mayor Nani entrusted us to an aide to make sure we got the chance for the artistas' "meet and greet."

Sure enough, the time came for our photo op with the visiting entertainers, including Rica Peralejo, Vhong Navarro and Dominic Ochoa, who were all quite accommodating. Then Ruffa Mae herself approached us and I made sure my Tio Tom got to stand beside her for our picture. "I have one over Teddy," said my uncle gleefully of his brother, who had chosen to retire early.

* * *

THE NEXT day, we brought our Tio Ted to tour the Hundred Islands which he had not visited for over a decade, then had a lunch meeting, replete with story telling sessions, about our forthcoming book project.

That same evening, despite the rains, the "Grand Ball" pushed through, sponsored by a group of young concerned Alaminians called "Alaminos 100." Guest speaker for the night was Francisco Magsajo Jr., president and COO of Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., whose mother is a Sison from Alaminos and whose talk was replete with childhood memories of vacations spent in the town. Magsajo was one of "outstanding" townmates awarded that night, including Tito Ben who was cited for his pioneering work in land reform, and our family friend Jones Campos, head of public relations for Globe Telecoms.

Papa, and "adopted son" of Alaminos, was cited for his work in education and cooperatives development. But I think he would have been happy with the simple fact that even after all these years, the town he fell in love with along with my mother, has not forgotten him.

Enhancing industry-academe linkages

COMMENTARY

Ramon R. del Rosario Jr.

(First of two parts)

(The following are excerpts from remarks delivered at the 2nd National Congress of the Coordinating Council for Private Education Associations Cocopea)

I AM PRIVILEGED TO BE PART OF A COMPANY that due to recent strategic decisions stands astride both these sectors of industry and the academe. However, our case is not one of bridging of two different worlds. For us, business and academe are one and the same world with no need for links or bridges.

For the past 50 years, Philippine Investment Management Inc. (Phinma) built its name, reputation, and success on manufacturing, in particular, on cement. Just about a decade ago, Phinma-managed cement companies had almost P18 billion in assets and sales of P10 billion.

Not too long ago, we decided to move into services such as housing, power and electricity, finance, and education.

Yes, education—not as a peripheral activity or part of a corporate social responsibility program but as a core business of the new Phinma—one of the pillars on which we would erect our new future.

In 2004, we purchased Araullo University, an institution of around 6,000 students in Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija; and in 2005, Cagayan de Oro College. Our own vision is to provide quality education through a network of at least five universities or colleges in key education centers around the country.

The goal over time is to have some 100,000 students in the system; our chosen market, the lower C and the D sectors. Hence, in both Araullo University and Cagayan de Oro College, as intended, the students come primarily from these lower-income classes.

However, like any business, we closely monitor the finances of our schools, tracking gross revenues and profit margins, returns on investment and equity, price-earnings, current and debt ratios. Our decision to purchase and invest in a school is assessed based on discounted cash flows and internal rates of return. Our shareholders expect and demand dividends and decent payback periods.

In our faculty loading, we measure and benchmark units supplied versus units demanded, and in room assignments, capacity utilization; and we measure everything else from janitors and security guards per square meter to administrative costs per student.

Not surprisingly, we are often asked: Are you making money or are you providing education? Is your main objective profit or is it service? The business of education is apparently a puzzling thing for many.

We believe that business and education are not two separate objectives or tasks; they are one and the same. High quality profitable education and affordable education should be one and the same thing. Profit drives our innovation; it drives our focus on the poor; it drives our obsession for academic quality. On the other hand, high-quality education at affordable tuition fees will draw the students in and thus drive our profitability.

There are two insights one can get from the Phinma experience.

One is that the lines between business and education are neither as clear nor distinct as we make them out to be.

Second, in this age of hi-tech and instant communication, of open access and shared information, of just-in-time production and invention, of CNN and YouTube, we must be willing and ready to rethink the way we do things, the way we approach different problems. We must be willing to re-imagine a world where the working and learning are not two necessarily different processes but one and the same.

Traditional views of the areas of learning and work see these as distinct, sequential processes. One goes through 10 to 12 years of basic education, proceeds to college, and then gets a job. If one chooses to pursue further studies, he or she stops working for a while to take an MBA, masters or Ph.D. or pursues part-time studies while working or part-time work while studying.

Within this paradigm, several models of education and industry linkages do exist. For example, many courses require practicum or six months of some experience in the profession prior to graduation.

For instance, many schools enter into agreements with companies to accept their undergraduates for on-the-job training. Others assign faculty to companies for short periods to increase their practical knowledge of a particular field. The assumption behind this is that actual hands-on experience will inform the lectures and lessons of these teachers to the benefit of their students.

Another model goes the other way, with industry moving into the schools, contributing content to the lessons and curriculum. Industry experts or practitioners act as part-time lecturers or resource persons for classes. Companies like Intel and Smart donate laboratories connected to their sector: electronics laboratories for the former and wireless laboratories for the latter.

Or, industry experts act as consultants to the academic community, aligning the curricula of different programs to the latest developments in the appropriate fields. The motivation behind this is obvious: the more knowledgeable students are of a company's technology or field, the better future employees they will be.

(To be concluded next week.)

Ramon del Rosario Jr. is president and chief executive officier of Phinma and chair of Philippine Business for Education.

Old cars

YOUNG BLOOD

Jean Pierre P. Dadufalza

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

ASIDE FROM HAVING A KEEN INTEREST IN THE INNER workings of the human body, which led me to become a physician, I also have an intense passion for cars. I am not your average twentysomething that lusts after the latest and the fastest exotic car you can find in "Top Gear." I go for old cars from the 1940s or 1950s.

My dream of owning and restoring an old classic car turned to reality when someone finally answered the ad I posted in the Internet: "Looking for old classic American cars from the '40s or '50s, preferably with the original engine and transmission."

The first text message I got said: "1979 Toyota Macho classic car, rare, fully loaded." I didn't know if I should laugh or cry. But after four days, I got the reassurance that someone still knew what the words "classic" and "old" meant, as far as cars were concerned. The message said: "You might be interested in a 1957 Chevy sedan."

I couldn't believe what I read and couldn't wait to see the car. The following day, I told my brother about my rare find (we share the same passion) and off we went to see it. After a minute or two of knocking at the gate, a housemaid approached us. We were led in after we told her we were the guys asking about the car.

Our jaws dropped at the sight of the huge car. It was indeed a 1957 Chevrolet sedan, a Two-Ten to be precise. It shares the same body and looks with any Chevrolet Bel-Air of that era except that it was a different model. We marveled at the car that was as huge and majestic as a ship. It had a two-tone, red and white paint, a curved roof that was almost round like a Volkswagen Beetle's, a windshield that wrapped around the corners to the A-pillars, and, of course, the unmistakable trademark tail fins accentuated by chrome trim. The '57 Chevy is an icon of the 1950s, "the undisputed star of the fabled 'Tri-Five' ('55-'56-'57) Chevy era," as "Automobile Magazine" put it.

As we continued to stare at the car, an elderly lady approached us. She introduced herself as the widow of its owner. We asked her if we could give it a closer look.

The doors opened perfectly. It was like entering a time machine that zapped us back to 1957. The windows could be rolled up and down smoothly. Everything inside was original. I closed the door and it emitted a solid thud. Unbelievable.

The hood had two chrome rocket ornaments on top and we popped it to reveal the original "stove-bolt" 235 cubic-inch (4.0L) straight-six engine. The air cleaner and radiator were original, and so with the single-barrel Rochester carburetor. Perfect.

The lady invited us inside the living room as soon as we were through inspecting the car. We asked if the price she had quoted in her message was fixed. She smiled and said it was. We didn't have the heart to haggle for a discount. After all, it was worth more than what she was asking. We sealed the deal.

Then, it was time to pull out the Chevy. The truck backed up into the driveway and lowered its bed. A heavy chain was tied to the rear axle and attached to the winch's cable. I took the wheel to steer the car into position. Full power was applied to the winch but the car wouldn't budge. Of course, I'd forgotten to shift to neutral.

I tried to get the column-shift to neutral, but the lever was stuck. I crossed my fingers and depressed the clutch and hoped it would work (a broken crankshaft was unimaginable). I heaved a sigh of relief when the car slowly inched its way out to the driveway.

The widow watched as the car was slowly winched onto the truck's bed. Her eyes filled with tears as she touched the Chevy for the last time. We've bought second-hand automobiles before but no separation between automobile and owner were as heart-breaking to witness as this one. Here we were, my brother and I, two young guys taking possession of an old automobile which would soon be our pride and joy, while there was Nana Flor, parting with their first car, a treasure trove of memories.

She handed us a Borg-Warner carburetor repair kit and a complete front suspension repair kit and requested that we take her for a ride when we were done with the restoration. We promised we would and then left.

We reached the mechanic's shop for the first stage of the restoration project: rebuilding the engine. I would have preferred to entrust the task to Uncle Ren, but since he was in the United States, I looked for another mechanic who was up to the job. I wanted someone who knew his way around American cars. With some luck, we found Mang Ed who knows these cars like the back of his hand. When he saw the Chevy, he said he was reminded of his days as a young man.

For the next couple of weeks, he pulled out and disassembled the engine and took the block and crankshaft to the machine shop for a re-bore. I scoured Binondo for pistons, connecting rod bearings, main bearings, valves, gaskets and the like. I was surprised to find out that some shops still had lots of unused spare parts for cars as old as our Chevy.

It has been almost two months since we brought the car to Mang Ed. Now the engine has been rebuilt and assembled, and we had it painted in the original Chevy blue.

My brother and I cannot wait to start the engine. For other people who drive their modern cars on a daily basis, it is as simple as turning the keys. For us, however, it is witnessing the rebirth of a 50-year-old car which lay dormant for nearly 25 years. On the road to its resurrection, every step counts: pouring engine oil, filling the radiator with coolant, connecting the battery, turning on the ignition switch, cranking the engine as the glass filter bowl fills with fresh gasoline, and finally hearing the long 235-cubic-inch straight six engine sputter to life with a roar as the sparkplugs ignite the air-fuel mixture.

If you are the typical car guy who is thinking about buying another new modern sissy car that is worth a fortune, think again. Would you really like to drive what everyone else has? It's about time you experience restoring and driving an old car, where there's just you, the car and the open road ahead. It's about time you experience the joys of more than four cylinders and raw power without distractions, such as a dozen buttons, electronic gadgetry and hi-tech stuff. If your lolo or dad has an old car in his garage, now is your chance to restore it and re-live history.

Jean Pierre P. Dadufalza, M.D., 27, is also a microbiologist.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

Military deployment in non-conflict areas an old, martial-law strategy

THE DEPLOYMENT OF MILITARY TROOPS in urban poor communities, where they are reportedly harassing supporters of "leftist" party-list groups, is more than just an issue of electioneering. It is in fact a disturbing indication that the Armed Forces of the Philippines is usurping the civilian functions of government. It is "militarizing" politics. It is an outright violation of the constitutional principle of civilian supremacy over the military. It is gradually laying down the foundation for the military's intervention in all aspects of public life. It is, in fact, a veiled attempt to institute a de facto martial rule. It is very reminiscent of the dark years of martial law.

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon said that the deployment is part of AFP's campaign to contain, among others, drug abuse in the targeted communities. The question is: Why should the military be concerned about "policing" civilian communities? That is the function of the Philippine National Police and barangay officials. Are we to understand that there is a breakdown of public order such that civilian authority can no longer function and there is a need to call in military troops to do police work?

Esperon also gave as a reason the need for the military to stop groups which are always on the streets. Who are the groups is he referring to? The progressive and militant groups involved in street protests? If so, when did exercising the constitutional right to freedom of assembly and speech become a military problem? When did being an activist or a supporter of activist organizations become a criminal act?

Whatever he says, Esperon cannot hide the glaring truth that the military operations in non-conflict areas are a calculated strategy designed to sow fear and terror among the civilian populace and keep the Arroyo administration in power. This strategy has been in the works since 2005, and was most evident in several barangays in Bulacan and Nueva Ecija—during the stint of Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan as the top military commander of Region IV—in the form of anti-communist lectures and dialogues, curfews, and people forced to identify those in the military's list of the "enemies of the state." This is the same strategy now being used in urban poor areas in Metro Manila cities.

We call on the Filipino people to make a stand against the ongoing militarization of non-conflict areas and communities and the continued violation of our constitutionally guaranteed rights. For in the final analysis, it is not only the members of party-list groups who are at the losing end of this growing repression; the real victims here are the Filipino people, whose fundamental rights and freedoms are being violated under the pretext of defending democracy.

—SR. CRESCENCIA LUCERO, SFIC,
executive director, Task Force Detainees
of the Philippines, tfdp@tfdp.org

Demand based on unlawful contract invalid

THIS IS A REJOINDER TO MY LETTER (INQUIRER, 3/12/07) and Meralco's reply (INQUIRER, 3/15/07):

1. The exchange of letters between Meralco (Nov. 9, 2006) and the ERC (Dec. 5, 2006) defined the issue in this particular case. Much of what I said was limited to it.

2. There was no understanding that I would settle the required service/bill deposit. In fact, in my many letters to Meralco, I made it clear that I considered the contract termination unlawful for it was based on the wrongful accusation that I committed an illegal act. And since the requirement to pay a bill deposit is based on the unlawful contract termination, it follows that the requirement to pay a bill deposit (given this particular circumstance) is invalid.

3. Contract termination requires 30 days' notice. In this particular case, there was none.

Considering the inconvenience (almost seven months now) and humiliation of having no electricity, it would be foolish for anyone not to pay P2,360 (refundable at that) if he was not totally convinced on the validity and merit of his stand.

Because Meralco earns by way of interest on bill deposit, it must not be said that it is being arbitrary/indiscriminate in terminating contracts that thereafter necessitates the renewal/payment of bill deposit.

—TEODORO R. MIGUEL JR.,
Regency Townhomes,
2 N. Reyes St.,
Xavierville Subd. II,
Loyola Heights,
Quezon City

Can't ERC initiate power rate review?

IT CONFOUNDS ME WHY THE ENERGY Regulatory Commission, instead of simply waiting for the National Power Corp. to submit a petition for a rate review, cannot initiate an adjustment of Napocor's rates. (INQUIRER, 03/12/07) Regulators all over the world, including the United States, do it with their public utilities. Incidentally, the capacity fees and the cost of purchase power paid to independent power producers (IPPs) are mostly in US dollars and are thus affected by the exchange rate.

ERC should also adjust Napocor's asset values, which still include those sold after June 2004. Until they are removed, Napocor will continue to earn profit for assets that it no longer owns; and these profits come from the consumers' payments.

—EDNA ESPOS, edna_espos@yahoo.com
Apt 612, Windsor Tower, 163 Legaspi St.
Legaspi Village, Makati City

3 Gs = Election Fraud & Violence
Gloria Garci Generals
Arroyo Garcillano Esperon Ebdane
BAYAN MUNA

A BAYAN MUNA poster warns against a repetition of alleged poll fraud in 2004.

AFP promotions lent credence to Hello Garci

THE HELLO GARCI TAPE SUGGESTED that Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo used members of the Commission on Elections, Philippine National Police, and the Armed Forces of the Philippines to manipulate the result of the 2004 presidential elections. Strangely, it was GMA herself who lent credence, through her actions, to the accusation.

The four generals who were mentioned in the "Hello Garci tape" were all promoted to very high positions. The odds that all four would subsequently be appointed to the juiciest positions, over more than 60 qualified and deserving generals in their organization, could only have been 10 million to one. But this happened. It is therefore difficult to believe that they were promoted because of their performance and good record.

Why did GMA promote them? To reward them for what they had done for her during the 2004 presidential election? Did GMA stole the presidency, as Susan Roces accused her of? The people have the right to know so they can treat GMA's candidates in the coming 2007 local and national elections accordingly.

—JOSE MAGTANGGOL,
San Jose,
Antique 5000

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate,. Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

PORO POINT MANAGEMENT CORPORATION
A Subsidiary of Bases Conversion Development Authority

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
Republic of the Philippines
Upgrading of the San Fernando Airport, Phase I

The Poro Point Management Corporation (PPMC), a subsidiary of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (PPMC), through the PPMC 2007 Corporate Operating Budget, intends to apply the sum of **Four Hundred Seventy Two Million Eighty Three Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Two and 69/100 Pesos (Php 472,083,622.69)** being the **Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)** to payments under the contract for the Upgrading of the San Fernando Airport, Phase 1. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

PPMC now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOI) from potential bidders to apply for eligibility for the Upgrading of the San Fernando Airport Phase 1. The scope of work to be undertaken shall include but is not limited to the following: furnishing of all batching plant, equipment, machinery, tools, labor materials, transportation and all other items necessary to complete the following.

(a) Construction and strengthening of airfield pavements, including hill removal;
(b) Construction of airport horizontal and vertical structures; and
(c) Electrical works

Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license with Category "AAA" and with Inter-Agency Category of Large "B" for General Engineering (Road, Highway Pavement, Railways, Airport Horizontal Structures and Bridges) and PCAB license with Category "A" and with Inter-Agency Category of Medium "B" for General Building (Building and Industrial Plant).

To be considered eligible and qualified, the prospective bidders, should have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents.

Interested Applicants may obtain further information from the PPMC and inspect the Eligibility Documents at the PPMC, Administration Building, Poro Point Special Economic and Freeport Zone, Poro, San Fernando City, La Union from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. on March 20, 2007 to March 26, 2007.

Eligibility Documents shall be issued and made available to interested applicants upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php 50,000.00) at the PPMC, Administration Building, Poro Point Special Economic and Freeport Zone, Poro, San Fernando City, La Union from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. on March 20, 2007 to March 26, 2007.

Interested applicants shall submit their LOIs together with their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the SBAC at the BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St., Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City on or before 9:00 A.M., April 2, 2007. Opening of eligibility documents shall be at 9:30 A.M., April 2, 2007 at the above address in the presence of the prospective Bidders' representatives who choose to attend. Applications for eligibility shall be evaluated using a non-discretionary "pass-fail" criteria. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check shall be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible bidders shall be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, a contract shall only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Eligible Bidders may obtain further information from PPMC and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., April 13, 2007 to April 19, 2007.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the SBAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 100,000.00). The Bidding Documents shall be issued and made available at the PPMC, Administration Building, Poro Point Special Economic and Freeport Zone, Poro, San Fernando City, La Union from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., on April 13, 2007 to April 19, 2007. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the Bidder or his duly authorized representative.

PPMC shall hold a Pre-Bid Conference and open to all Eligible Bidders on April 20, 2007, 2:00 P.M. at the San Fernando Airport, Terminal Building, Canaoay, San Fernando City, La Union.

Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids to the SBAC at the BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St., Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City on or before 9:00 A.M., May 8, 2007. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form and in the amount specified in the Bidding Documents. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be at 9:30 A.M., May 8, 2007 at the above address in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend.

Completion of the Works is required within four hundred five (405) calendar days from the issuance of the Notice to Proceed.

PPMC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Poro Point Management Corporation
Poro Point Special Economic and Freeport Zone
Poro, City of San Fernando, La Union
Tel. (072) 242-4016
Fax (072) 242-0683
ppmc@sflu.com

(Sgd.) ATTY. ANTHONY C. MANGUIAT
Chairman
Special Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – March 20, 2007)

Consumer rights, green choices

WORLD CONSUMER RIGHTS DAY was celebrated last March 15. In the Philippines, where rights are not always fully understood and often taken for granted, it makes me wonder how many people are actually aware of our rights as consumers.

First and foremost, we have the right to basic necessities and services such as food, shelter, jobs, education, healthcare, water, sanitation and public utilities. Our other globally recognized rights as consumers include our rights to be given the facts to make informed choices, to select from a range of quality and reasonably priced goods and services, to be protected against hazards to health or life, to be represented in policy as well as product development, to obtain consumer education, to get a fair resolution of just claims, and the right to live and work in a healthy and sustainable environment.

The Consumer Act of the Philippines and related laws and ordinances on environment and development seek to protect these rights as well as establish standards of conduct for business and industry.

Along with our consumer rights, we have parallel responsibilities to be vigilant in asserting these rights, to be critically aware of the price and quality as well as the social and environmental impacts of our choices, and to make consumption or non-consumption decisions to protect the welfare of marginalized sectors and the environment.

As March is also the women's month, allow me to cite the special role of women, particularly mothers like me, in making choices that are safe for the family's health and for the environment. Using the power of the purse, we can make a huge difference in building nature-loving families and neighborhoods and in developing a vibrant market for green choices.

Reducing consumption of non-essential stuff, reading product labels for toxic information, practicing precaution by using natural versus synthetic alternatives, patronizing products that are reusable, repairable and recyclable, and using ecological substitutes to plastic carry bags are some of the green choices that we can make.

Lots of simple and practical steps can be added onto the list of green choices. As ours is a finite planet, we invite everyone to be mindful of the effects of our consumption decisions on the capacity of Mother Nature to feed and sustain our present and future generations.

—GIGIE CRUZ, GAIA/EcoWaste
Coalition's Task Force on Plastics,
Unit 330, Eagle Court,
26 Matalino St., Quezon City

Senate breeds incompetent pols

IN A RECENT NEWS STORY, (INQUIRER, 3/6/07) reporter Jerry Esplanada mentioned my opposition to actors entering politics at the national level. But I do not oppose their running for local offices—from mayor to governor and even to Congress.

In Congress, there is the security in number; and it is seldom for a congressman to aspire for the presidency or vice presidency.

But the Senate is another story. With only 24 senators, its members feel like the chosen few deserving the highest office of the land, never mind their character flaws and arrogance. The Senate is a breeding ground for incompetent politicians aspiring for the presidency.

An actor running for a local or even a district office is fair enough for me. If he/she bungles the job, it is only his/her constituents who suffer. The damage is localized.

But running for the Senate is another story. Mistakes of senators can affect the welfare of the entire nation. That would be truly regrettable.

According to Esplanada, actors like Cesar Montano and Tito Sotto might find it hard to get my vote. Not really. While I am aware of and dismayed with many senatorial candidates because of their backgrounds, uncouth behavior, conceit and mental dishonesty, actors like Montano and Sotto have more chances of getting my vote than Francis Escudero, Loren Legarda and Cayetano (the one from Taguig, not Davao) and a few others whose hypocrisy reaches the ceiling.

Their stand-offish stance and insincerity do not sit well with me. Knowing their background and the things they did that I am well aware of, I will not vote for them—to save this country from them in 2010.

I am for Charter change, for parliamentary unicameral system of government; all those who oppose these will definitely not get my vote. If I can do it, I'll convince many more voters to vote my way this coming May elections.

I am just being truthful, real and honest to myself—for a person who cannot be honest, truthful and real to himself/herself, cannot be real, truthful and honest to the people.

Even if the senatorial candidates I do not like win, I really do not care, for I am not one who asks favors from anyone. I do not need them, neither will I ask them for favors.

—MANUEL L. MORATÓ,
mlmorato@yahoo.com

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Lamppost supplier says there was no overprice

By Jhunnex Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—AN EXECUTIVE OF ONE OF THE suppliers of the controversial lampposts installed in three cities in Cebu denied allegations of overpricing.

Romy Fuentes, project director of Fabmik Construction, also insisted that local and regional public works officials did not benefit from the project.

Fuentes said the company might go to court in order to collect the unpaid part of their contract, worth almost P200 million.

"We have to bring that to court, challenging the order of the Ombudsman because we are the aggrieved party in this transaction," he said in a phone interview yesterday.

Fuentes said they were just paid between 10 or 15 percent of the total project cost, and that this amount has been spent.

Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez last Friday issued an order stopping the release of the balance of the contract cost to the two contractors—Fabmik and Gampik Construction—pending the completion of the Ombudsman's investigation.

Around 1,800 lampposts were installed in the ceremonial routes from Cebu City, Mandaue City and Lapulapu City during the 12th Asean summit. The cost ranged from P85,000 and P224,000 for the decorative lampposts but the cost of the streetlights with different designs (one-arm, two-arms and three-arms) reportedly cost over P300,000 each.

But in a statement, the two suppliers said they welcomed the investigation since it would "give us the opportunity to clear our names."

A mayor of Naga, Cebu said the lamppost in his town cost only 16,000 each, while businessman Cris Saavedra said he could supply similar lampposts for P31,000 each.

But Fuentes said the issue was politicized due to the coming elections.

City Government of Zamboanga
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
City Hall, Zamboanga City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The CITY GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBOANGA invites PhilGEPS registered suppliers to apply for the following items.

Name of Projects	Approved Budget for the Contract	Date/Time		Price of Bid Documents (non-refundable)
		Pre-bid Conference	Deadline/ Opening of Bids	
1. Coco Coir Powder (Microorganism Enzymes)	P2,875,000.00	March 28, 2007	April 10, 2007 10:00AM	P1,000.00

The Bid documents shall be available at the City Mayor's Office, Procurement, Acquisition and Awards Division, City Hall, Zamboanga City starting **March 20-27, 2007** upon payment of non-refundable fee indicated above.

The Pre-Bid conference shall be held at **City Engineer's Office, Conference Hall, City Hall, Zamboanga City.**

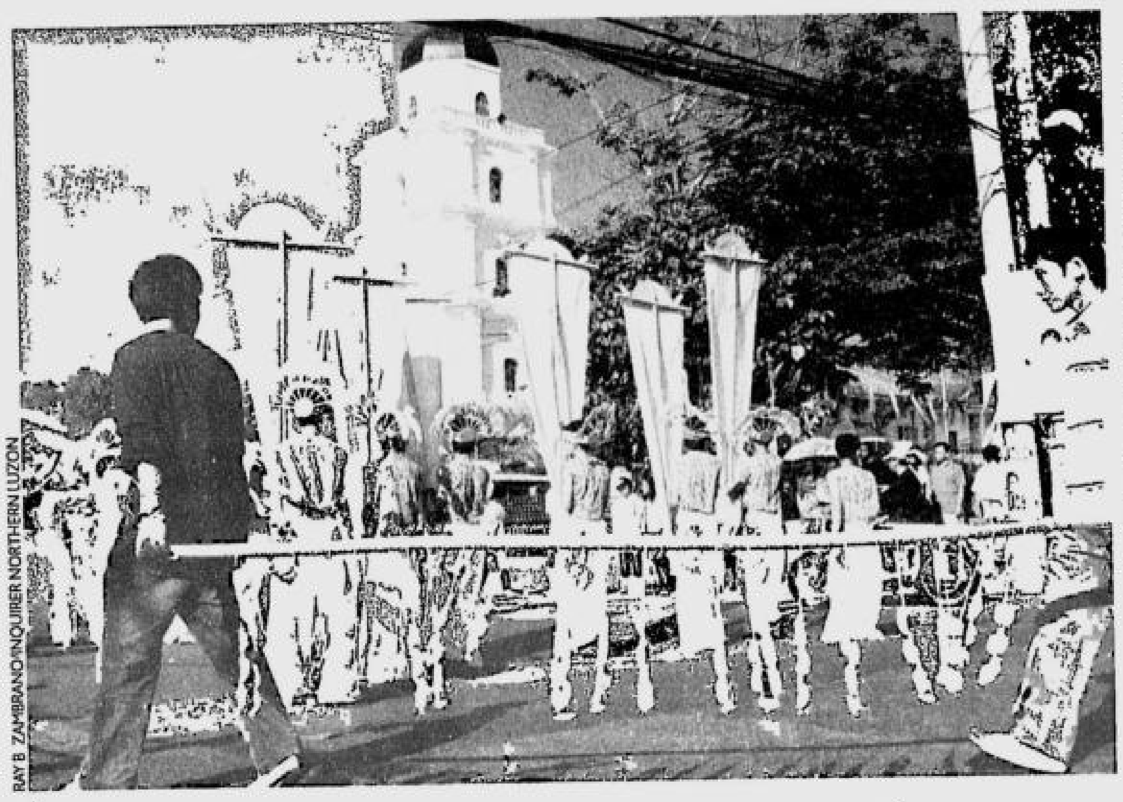
The Bidder shall drop and enclose the original of the Technical Proposal in one sealed envelope; whereas, the original of the Financial Proposal shall be enclosed in another sealed envelope. Both envelopes shall then be placed in another single envelope. In the bid box located at the abovementioned address.

For more information, please call the Procurement, Acquisition and Awards Division at telephone no. **[062] 992-7763.**

The **CITY GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBOANGA** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **MARIO D. ARRIOLA (DVM)**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – March 20, 2007)



RAY B. ZAMBRANO/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

STUDENTS from different schools in Alaminos City, Pangasinan join a street dancing contest to celebrate the the city's Longganiza Festival on March 17. The city says its sausages are organic and should be promoted abroad for overseas Filipinos to have a continuous supply of them.

City promotes organic 'longganiza'

ALAMINOS CITY—ASIDE FROM THE Hundred Islands National Park, this western Pangasinan city has been promoting its organic longganiza (native sausage) through a festival since 2003.

On Saturday, students garbed in colorful costumes joined the street dancing to depict how the Alaminos longganiza is produced, all aimed at marketing this breakfast fare that goes well with fried rice, eggs and coffee.

The Alaminos longganiza differs from the produce of other provinces as the string of sausages is divided into small portions using sticks made of coconut midribs. These are tied together using strips of palm leaves.

"It is unique because it's the only longganiza in the country with built-in toothpick," said Mayor Hernani Braganza.

He said the product is fully organic and has no artificial preservatives.

The only ingredients added to the longganiza are salt, pepper, soy sauce and lots of garlic, according to Judy Ventura, the biggest longganiza producer in the city.

She said another secret is the use of fresh pig intestines as casing. She said other areas use dried pig intestines in their longganiza.

The longganiza also has no artificial color. "We only use achuete seeds for the deep yellow-red color," Ventura said.

The Alaminos longganiza is sold in areas outside the province and in Metro Manila where it can be found in supermarkets. Local producers also supply the native sausage to some hotels and restaurants, Ventura said.

"You will recognize Alaminos longganiza through the sticks and the palm strips," Ventura said.

But longganiza production is still a home-based industry in the city.

Ventura, who learned making longganiza from her husband, said her nephews and nieces help in the production while her son and daughter help her tend their market stall.

She said their sales increase when tourists start coming here from March to May. She said she could sell up to 150 kilograms a day of longganiza during these months.

Braganza said by promoting the longganiza and increasing the demand for it, the festival is helping farmers in the city who are producing the raw materials.

"But the biggest challenge is to bring it out of the country so Pangasinenses living abroad will have a regular supply of the original Alaminos longganiza," he said. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

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Bayan Muna house in Iloilo attacked

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

A MILITARY officer presents campaign posters of the group Bayan Muna that the Army says were seized at an alleged NPA camp in Davao City.

DENNIS JAY SANTOS/INQUIRER MINDANAO

ILOILO CITY—MOTORCYCLE-riding persons threw gas lamps at a house here used for making campaign materials of militant party-list groups at dawn yesterday.

No one was hurt but the tarpaulin roofing of the hut was slightly burned, said Wenefredo Dublezo, spokesperson of the party-list group Bayan Muna in Panay.

The gas lamps, made from plastic bottles of mineral water filled with gasoline with a cloth wick, were thrown at around 3 a.m. at the hut in Barangay Sto. Niño Sur in Arevalo District here, according to a report of the Arevalo police station.

One of the bottles ignited, burning the roofing while the other fell to the ground.

John Lañada, 25, a Bayan Muna volunteer who was sleeping inside the house, said the suspects sped off in at least two motorcycles. He could not identify any of them because of the blackout in the city at dawn until yesterday morning.

The house is on a lot managed by Maria Luisa Dominado, 51, a former political detainee and spokesperson of the Samahan ng mga Ex-Detainees Laban sa Detensyon at para sa Amnestiya (Selda) on Panay Island.

Dublezo said the hut is being used as venue for preparing streamers, posters and other campaign materials of Bayan Muna and party-list groups Kabataan Party, Gabriela Women's Party and Anakpawis.

Dublezo said the attack, the first case of violence on Panay Island against party-list groups, was part of a systematic campaign of the administration to stop the party-list groups from winning in the May elections.

"The logical conclusion is that this incident is the handiwork of the administration as among their dirty tactics to destroy us," said Dublezo.

He said this was related to the arrest and the proposed transfer of Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo to Leyte, the continued detention of Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran and the filing of criminal and disqualification cases against their leaders.

Dublezo said campaign materials of the party-list groups are also being removed from designated poster areas in public plazas in the city.

Senior Supt. Wesley Barayuga, Iloilo City police director, said police were investigating the attack.

In a telephone interview, Baruga said but they could not rule out the possibility the attack was election-related.

Around 100 Bayan Muna members and supporters held a picket here yesterday to protest the continued attacks against their members and denounce the arrest and the proposed transfer of Ocampo.

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Ex-Cebu vice gov charged with drug smuggling

By Jhunnex Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—CRIMINAL CHARGES have been filed against former Cebu Vice Gov. John Gregory "Johnjohn" Osmeña and 10 others before the Department of Justice in Manila for allegedly smuggling P3.6 billion worth of a shabu ingredient from China to Australia via Cebu three years ago.

But Osmeña's father, former Sen. John H. Osmeña, criticized the timing of the case filing and suspected Malacañang's hand to embarrass him as a senatorial candidate of the opposition ticket. He maintained though that he would not intervene in the case.

He also suspected that Cebu Rep. Eduardo Gullas could have pressured the filing of the case because his son wanted to run against him in the first district.

In an interview on Sunday night, the Philippine Drugs Enforcement Agency (PDEA) denied that the filing was politically motivated. It filed the case on March 15 because PDEA personnel had to evaluate all the documents, including the affidavits of witnesses, according to Lydia Bundac, the agency's legal officer.

Bundac said Johnjohn appeared to be the local contact in Cebu based on the investigation and evidence presented by the Australian federal police.

Several witnesses, including former PDEA regional chief Gaudencio Pagaling, alleged in their affidavits that the former vice governor called up at least three people and asked for the release of the shipment of pseudoephedrine, a chemical used to make shabu.

The chemical cargo were supposed to be transported from China to Australia with Cebu as the transshipment point. But the investigation showed the shipment would be stored first in a Mandaue City warehouse before it would be transported to Australia.

The PDEA filed the charges of violations of the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act (Republic Act No. 9165): illegal importation of dangerous drugs or controlled precursor, attempt or conspiracy, criminal liability of government officials and employees, criminal liability of officers of partnership corporation, and liability of a person violating any regulation issue by the board.

"Only the last is bailable," Bundac said.

Also charged were three former staff members of Osmeña—Joebert Cuesta, Rorela Villegas and Maria Rowena Roldan. Cuesta is reportedly the president of Coastside Ventures Inc., consignee of the 1,710 kilos of pseudoephedrine seized on March 5, 2004.

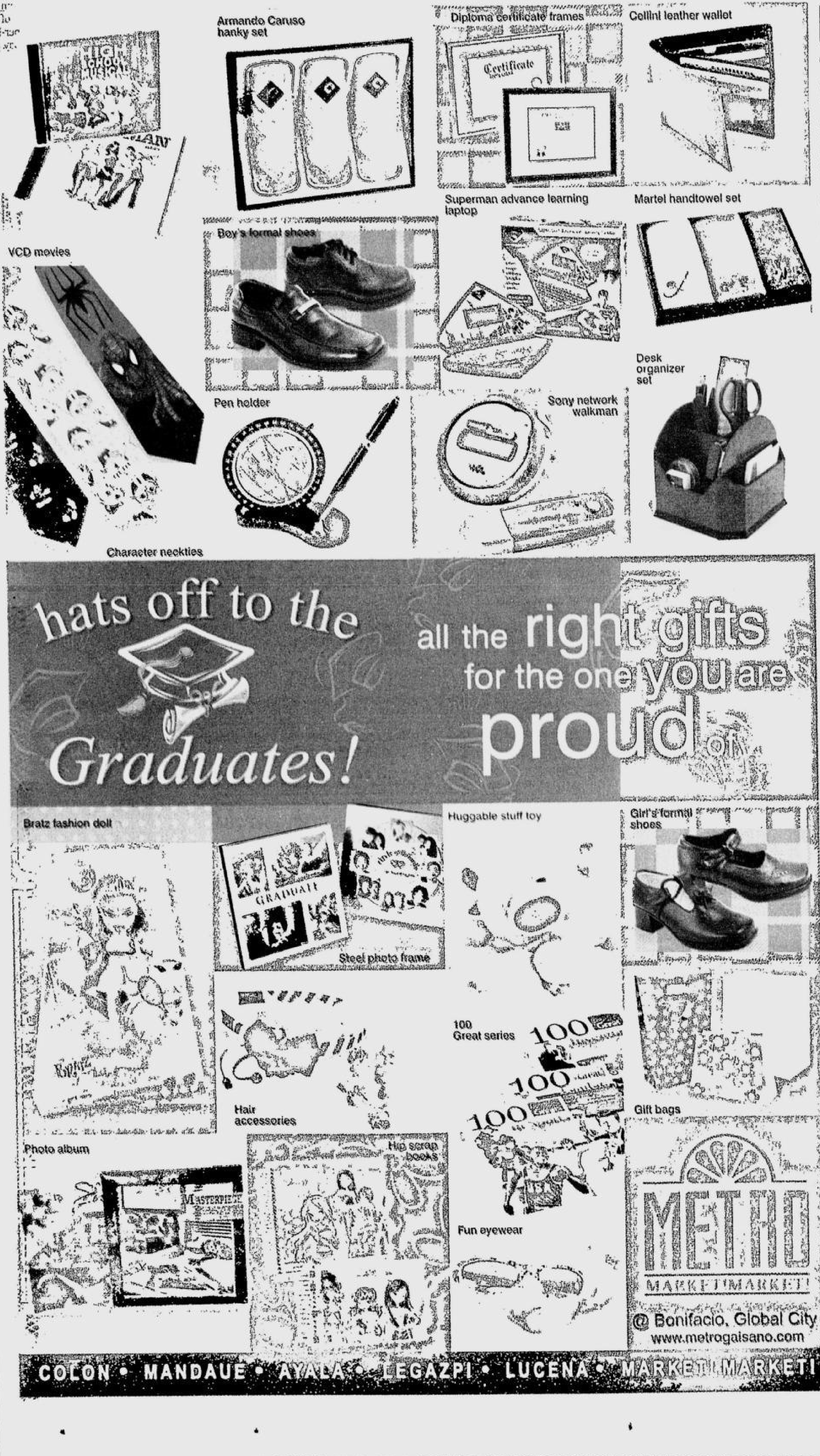
Other respondents were Mike Cummings, who allegedly represented Coastside Ventures in the import documents; Dirk d'Hultz, a friend of Osmeña; Michael Emilio Sanchez and Alexander Castro, Coastside Ventures stockholders; Susan Bernardo, company manager; Leah Banal; and Malou Milagros Legaspi.

"The filing of this case, as the campaign period for the 2007 election intensifies, leads one to suspect that Malacañang may have intentionally delayed this case and now causes its filing just to torpedo the Senate bid of a member of the opposition," Osmeña's father said in a statement.

"Johnjohn is 37 years old and should be responsible for his actions. I can do no more. All I can say (is that) they can go ahead and let the law take its course. In this country, everybody is presumed innocent until proven guilty," he said.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said the respondents could still file an appeal because the case was still at the office of the chief state prosecutor.

JOHN Osmeña cries foul over the filing of the charges, linking it to his bid for a new term at the Senate. CDN



ELECTION '07

The campaign trail brings more promises

AS SENATORIAL AND PARTY-LIST CANDIDATES fanned around the country on campaign sorties the last three weeks, local groups and personalities geared for electoral battles in their own turfs.

LACSON

In Sorsogon on Friday, Genuine Opposition candidate Sen. Panfilo Lacson got a resounding applause from students and faculty members of the Sorsogon State College after he said he would be joining the presidential race in 2010.

Lacson interacted with the students and faculty members as resource speaker in a forum Friday.

Lacson said he still had more laws to draft but that he would again seek the presidency in 2010.

The senator urged students to take an active role in ensuring honest, orderly and peaceful elections.

Prior to the forum, the senator met with local officials led by Gov. Raul Lee and Sorsogon Bishop Arturo Bastes.

Mindoro

ESCUDERO

In Calapan on Thursday, GO candidate Francis "Chiz" Escudero III, the first senatorial candidate to campaign in Oriental Mindoro, expressed objections to extrajudicial killings, saying "the law should be upheld."

Clad in *maong* pants and a brown T-shirt, Escudero arrived in a helicopter in Barangay Suqui before proceeding to the Mindoro State College of Agriculture and Technology and holding a press conference at the Microtel Hotel here.

He said "the stand of the people [on mining] should not be pushed aside in what the government calls its development agenda." Mindoro has a 25-year mining ban which is being threatened by a Canada-based mining company.

Laguna

ZUBIRI

Administration senatorial candidate Miguel Zubiri went to his alma mater, the University of the Philippines at Los Baños, and promised to help in the reconstruction of the old college library, tap UPLB experts as advisers to the Senate committee on agriculture and push for a budget increase for education.

A 1990 graduate of BS Agri-Business and Management from the UPLB College of Economics and Management, Zubiri said he often went to UPLB for advice. "All of the bills that I had authored were products of my development and learnings here in UPLB," he said. In the forum, Zubiri discussed the bills he authored and his platforms for the Senate. He shared with students some environmental problems that require immediate solutions.

He said it was now the time for "well-off students" to give their fair share to the university.

"I support the tuition increase but not the exact rates that they are asking now, maybe they (UP administration) can renegotiate the percent of increase," he said.

Pangasinan

In Dagupan City, a group of civic, business, student and religious leaders in Pangasinan urged former Gov. Oscar Orbos to run for governor anew amid the bitter in-fighting among local Lakas-CMD leaders.

"We are desperately looking for principled and decent leadership," said Armi Bangsal-Lorica, convenor of the Pangasinan Advocacy for Democratic and Electoral Reforms.

Bangsal-Lorica said the people of Pangasinan deserve an alternative leader, noting that the "silent majority" in the province had wished that Orbos, a former executive secretary, return as father of the province. *Niña Catherine Calleja and Juan Escandor Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon; Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas; Gabriel Cardinoza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

ELECTION '07

Sotto let me down, says FPJ daughter

By Norman Bordadora

THE DAUGHTER OF THE LATE ACtor and presidential contender Fernando Poe Jr. yesterday expressed disappointment over former Sen. Vicente Sotto III's decision to run under the administration ticket rather than with the Genuine Opposition.

Mary Grace Poe-Llamanzares, honorary chair of the Filipinos for Peace, Justice and Progress Movement (FPJPM) party-list group, said Sotto had worked very closely with her father during the 2004 electoral campaign against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"I am very disappointed," Llamazares told reporters following the "press conference proclamation" of FPJPM as a party-list group vying for seats in the House of Representatives in the coming elections.

"My dad would have wanted him to run under the opposition," she said.

FPJPM in the run up to the 2004 polls was known as the FPJ for President Movement. It was instrumental in gathering millions of signatures nationwide to convince Poe, bosom friend of deposed President Joseph Estrada, to run for president.

"Of the three (Sen. Edgardo Angara, former Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta and Sotto), it was (Sotto) who was closest to my family. I'd rather that he ran under the opposition," Llamanzares said.

Angara, Sotto and Oreta were active in Poe's campaign in 2004.

Sotto had said Llamanzares and Poe's widow, Susan Roces, had told him that they understood his decision to run under the administration slate.

He said that even Poe would have supported his decision as the late actor wanted unity and reconciliation in Philippine politics.

While lending support to the FPJPM party-list as the group's honorary chair, Llamanzares said she was not inclined to accept the group's nomination as its second nominee if it decides to nominate her in the next few days.

"I'm more inclined not to (run)," she said. "I'm more effective as a representative in a group supporting calls for genuine change."

FPJPM yesterday announced Boots Cadsawan, FPJPM president, would be the party-list groups's nominee.

It was Cadsawan who initiated the gathering of at least a million signatures before 2004 to convince Poe to run for president.

Elect eco-minded bets, says prelate

By Jerome Aning and TJ Burgonio

VOTE FOR "ECOLOGY-MINDED" candidates.

This was the appeal of Manila Archbishop Cardinal Gaudencio Rosales.

Rosales, an outspoken environmentalist, said that as stewards of God's creation, it was "imperative" for voters to discern who among those aspiring for public office were truly committed in caring for Mother Nature.

The candidate should defend Mother Nature "from being desecrated, contaminated and destroyed by apathy, greed, crass materialism, toxic wastes and chemicals, and the unsustainable use of the earth's dwindling resources," the archbishop said in a statement issued Friday.

Rosales endorsed the efforts of the EcoWaste Coalition, a Quezon City-based group helping educate Filipino voters to elect candidates who champion the cause of the environment.

He said EcoWaste's "Ten Commandments on How to Choose Green Candidates" provided a useful guide on what to look for in candidates in terms of their environmental track record and platforms.

Meanwhile, the Kalikasan-Peoples Network for the Environment (Kalikasan-PNE), said Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr., former Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor and Sen. Edgardo Angara were the "worst three choices" for environmental advocacy and were unworthy of the "green vote."

The three are running for Senate seats in the May 14 elections under the administration's Team Unity ticket.

ROSALES

"These three administration candidates turned out to be the most antienvironment in their stands and practices. They have been proforeign mining and procommercial logging for most of their stints in public office," Clemente Bautista Jr., Kalikasan-PNE national coordinator, said in a statement.

He urged "all nature lovers and environmentalists to seriously reconsider voting for such politicians," because they had not shown any "political will to stand for the environment and the people's welfare."

Pichay pushed for the implementation of the Mining Act of 1995, supported mining and logging companies in his province, and opposed calls for commercial log ban, he said.

Angara stood for the implementation of the Mining Act, and opposed calls for a log ban. His family has logging interests in Aurora province, Bautista said.

Of the three, Defensor logged the most number of antienvironment policies, especially when he served as environment secretary from August 2004 to January 2006, according to Kalikasan-PNE.

He also backed the Mining Act, the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA), whose ratification it is feared would pave the way for the entry of toxic waste in the country from Japan, and the resumption of Lafayette Mining Company's operations on Rapu-Rapu Island, Albay.

Noynoy to GMA: Tell it to the OFWs

By Norman Bordadora

GENUINE OPPOSITION CANDIdate Benigno Aquino III has challenged President Macapagal-Arroyo to prove her claim the economy and employment rate had improved before the nine million Filipinos toiling overseas and their families.

Aquino said it was up to Ms Arroyo to convince the overseas Filipino workers and their loved ones this was the right time to return to the country because of the growing economy and better employment opportunities.

"I challenge President Arroyo to declare before the families of our OFWs how good the national economy has become and how the local employment situation has improved," Aquino said in a press statement.

Aquino's remarks came in the wake of Ms Arroyo's pronouncement last week the country's employment situation had vastly improved with the gains in the economy.

The President on Friday cited National Statistics Office data showing the unemployment rate dropped to 7.8 percent in January from 8.1 percent a year ago.

Aquino, an economics graduate from the Ateneo de Manila University, said he disagreed with most of Malacañang's figures.

"Sustaining an economic growth that benefits only the rich but not the poor majority is dangerous as it may eventually erode the Filipino people's faith in our democratic system," Aquino said.

"In a working democracy, equitable growth is as important as political freedoms. There must be equity and everyone must get the benefits. Our democratic system will be compromised if only the rich get richer and the poor get poorer," he said.

In remarks during rites establishing the Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. Distinguished Professorial Chair in Corporate Responsibility and Governance at the De La Salle Professional Schools Ramon V. del Rosario Sr. Graduate School of Business on the DLSU Taft campus on Saturday, Aquino said the extrajudicial killings in the country were a result of the Arroyo administration's failure to address social inequity and its insistence on tackling the insurgency "with a heavy hand."

He said the government's failure to bridge the gap between the rich and poor had heightened social conflicts and resulted in the killing of activists and journalists mainly by military elements.

Trillanes seeks media access anew

By DJ Yap

DETAINED NAVY LT. Antonio Trillanes IV, who is seeking a Senate seat under the Genuine Opposition ticket, appealed yesterday a ruling by a Makati court denying him full access to media.

Trillanes, through his lawyer Reynaldo Robles, asked Judge Oscar Pimentel of Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 148 to reconsider his March 5 order rejecting Trillanes' motion to be allowed to be interviewed in detention.

In a 13-page motion for reconsideration, Trillanes, a leader of the Magdalo group of junior military officers on trial for the failed 2003 Oakwood mutiny, said he "knows for a fact that I am not on equal footing with the other candidates."

"This is exactly the reason why my request is to be given access to the media and not to be released and to be allowed to campaign outside my place of detention," he added.

Trillanes also said there was no basis for Pimentel's concern he would make sub judice statements or discuss the merits of his case with the media, as he had never done so in the past.

He said the denial of media access "clearly amounts to prior restraint, and censorship, both of which are frowned upon by the Constitution."

In his order, Pimentel said Trillanes had "the right to run and campaign but such right had its limitations."

"He must still yield to other matters which are of public concern and interest, which in this case are the internal rules of the Marine Brig and the proceedings before this court," Pimentel said.

"As to freedom of the press, such constitutional guarantee still has to comply with existing laws and jurisprudence. It is not absolute," he ruled.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, March 20, 2007
4th Week of Lent

1st Reading: Ezk 47:1-9, 12
Gospel: John 5:1-3, 5-16

There was a feast of the Jews and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now, by the Sheep Gate in Jerusalem, there is a pool (called Bethzatha in Hebrew) surrounded by five galleries. In these galleries lay a multitude of sick people—blind, lame and paralyzed.

There was a man who had been sick for 38 years. Jesus saw him, and since he knew how long this man had been lying there, he said to him, "Do you want to be healed?" And the sick man answered, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is disturbed; so while I am still on my way, another steps down before me."

Jesus then said to him, "Stand up, take your mat and walk." And at once the man was healed, and he took up his mat and walked.

Now that day happened to be the Sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who had just been healed, "It is the Sabbath and the Law doesn't allow you to carry your mat." He answered them, "The one who healed me said to me: Take up your mat and walk." They asked him, "Who is the one who said to you: Take up your mat and walk?" But the sick man had no idea who it was who had cured him, for Jesus had slipped away among the crowd that filled the place.

Afterwards Jesus met him in the Temple court and told him, "Now you are well; don't sin again, lest something worse happen to you." And the man went back and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him. So the Jews persecuted Jesus because he performed healings like that on the Sabbath.

Commentary

Ezekiel is taken to the temple to see the waters rise—these are the waters of salvation, of baptism, and of the temple and the church, flowing from the side of Jesus rather than the ancient building. Jesus goes to the temple and sees all the sick lying by the Sheep Pool, called Bethesda. And Good Shepherd that Jesus is, he knows that there is a man who has been sick for 38 years and asks him if he wants to be healed. The man complains and gives excuses about why he can't get into the water quick enough and Jesus commands him to "stand up and walk." He is healed and walks.

But the man speaks with the leaders-because it was a Sabbath-and he blames Jesus for curing him! He has no idea who Jesus is because Jesus had slipped away after healing him. Jesus goes and finds him (lost sheep still) in the temple and warns him to give up his sins—and yet the man goes back and informs on Jesus, causing the leaders to persecute Jesus even more. And what about us—we have been forgiven, healed, warned by Jesus—do we heed any of his words or do we use our experience with him to cause problems among others, other believers and those who use religion for their own agenda?

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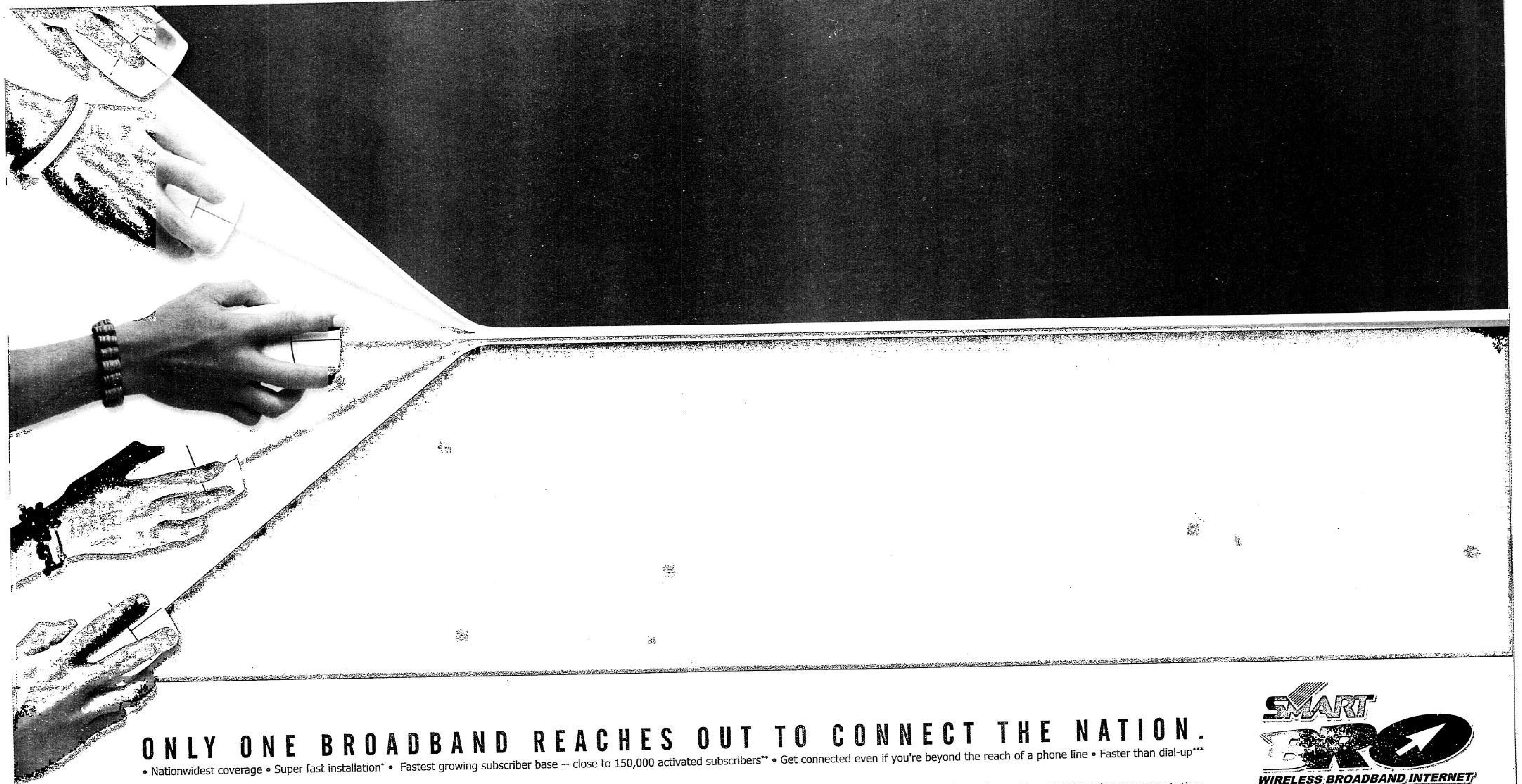

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Police chiefs propose peace pact for poll bets

PNP cites rising cases of violence during elections

By Nancy C. Carvajal

DAYS BEFORE THE CAMPAIGN PERIOD FOR candidates running for local posts was set to kick off, police directors in the metropolis were ordered to take preventive measures against election-related violence.

"Police agencies should resolve to take positive measures to prevent or minimize violence during this year's elections," Deputy Director General Reynaldo Varilla, National Capital Regional Police Office chief, said.

Varilla issued the order in a two-page letter dated March 18 which he sent to the directors of the five police districts in Metro Manila.

He noted that three previous elections showed that "the pattern of violence has been increasing, resulting in an increasing number of fatalities." Varilla proposed several "proactive measures" to reduce violence in the May 14 national and local elections.

Based on INQUIRER Research records, the number of deaths due to election violence has gone up in the past three elections. There were 45 cases in 1998, 98 in 2001 and 143 in 2004.

Varilla suggested that the Metro police district directors initiate the signing of a peace covenant among the candidates in their respective areas. Police heads, he said, should conduct dialogues with parties perceived to have the capability to sow violence.

Varilla further suggested that officers seek help from influential sectors in compelling the candidates to honor the peace covenant.

Among the sectors mentioned by the NCRPO chief were the Church, respected elders and media. In the same order, Varilla also reminded his officers of their responsibility to implement "aggressive measures" in the event of an election-related violent incident.

"Commanders shall immediately identify, arrest and prosecute the suspect and install measures to prevent the recurrence of similar incidents," he said.

"As a matter of policy, the occurrence of an election-related violent incident shall be taken against the efficiency of the leader under the concept of command responsibility," Varilla added.

3 fires hit Quezon City, eastern Metro

By Santiago R. Alcantara, Jeannette I. Andrade and Kristine L. Alave

A FIRE LEFT AROUND 90 FAMILIES HOMEless in Mandaluyong City yesterday morning, hours after 10 houses burned to the ground in Quezon City.

Four people were hurt in the fire in Mandaluyong which broke out at 10:20 a.m. yesterday in a depressed area at Block 7 Welfareville Compound in Barangay Addition Hills.

One of them was a fire volunteer, said Senior Insp. Ferdinand Samson, fire operations chief. Samson added that the fire, which was placed under control after two hours, razed 30 houses. According to FO2 Marcos Cabiso, at least three families lived in each shanty.

As of press time, authorities were still trying to determine the total cost of damage to property caused by the fire.

Cabiso said the blaze started in the house of Fe Recon which had no electricity at that time. The victims were evacuated to the Fabella Memorial School where they are expected to stay until Thursday, Mandaluyong Mayor Neptali Gonzales II said in a statement.

Meanwhile, a fire partially destroyed the rooftop of the abandoned Philcomcen Building along Ortigas Avenue in Pasig City Sunday night. The fire broke out at about 8 p.m., after discarded wood materials and rubbish caught fire. No casualties or injuries were reported and damage was "negligible," the report added.

In Quezon City, 50 persons lost their homes when a fire that started from an unattended stove spread through a row of shanties on Sunday night.

The fire razed 10 houses on Lualhati Street, Manotoc Subdivision in Barangay Baesa. It started at 8:33 p.m. and was put out more than an hour later.

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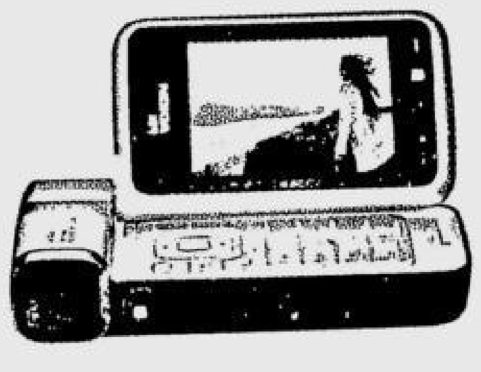

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2	Virginia A. Katigbak	TCT-T-55085 / 1-C	12.2398	Buyo, Manito, Albay
3	Ma. Elsie J. Alvarez	TCT-T-55084 / 1-B	12.2398	Buyo, Manito, Albay
4	PDIC (formerly Jimmy Alamares)	PA-3532 /TD#78	6.9728	Basicao Coastal, Pioduran, Albay
5	Fernando Alsua	UT / 7678-B, F	3.6900	Pinit, Ligao City
6	Fernando Alsua	UT / 7679-A 1,2,3	3.6370	Pinit, Ligao City
7	PAIC Savings & Mortgage Bank	T-68123 / 7111	20.5000	Abella, Ligao City
8	Francisca Alsua	T-12882 / 2805	1.7554	Bonga, Ligao City
9	Francisca Alsua	T-1864 / 4252	0.4803	Sta. Cruz, Ligao City
10	Pablo Alsua	T-10513 / 4437	3.9280	Bonga, Ligao City
11	Arthur M. San Jose	T-28136 / 4842	5.3421	Homapon, Legazpi City
12	Arthur M. San Jose	T-28135 / 4845	5.7568	Homapon, Legazpi City
13	Arthur M. San Jose	T-28134 / 3766	2.8772	Homapon, Legazpi City
14	Luis Meneses	T-5254 / 16117	13.3040	Banquerohan, Legazpi City
15	Lorenzana Chancoco	T-320 / 15985	13.1019	Banquerohan, Legazpi City
16	Jovencio Ayque	T-25184 / 15900-B	10.1307	Banquerohan, Legazpi City
17	Baudilio Oca	OCT-(NA)-2069 / 15608	62.6391	San Francisco, Legazpi City
18	Lo Kuy, Dy Mate, Dy Que & Dy Wai	OCT-(NA)-1930 / 15608	21.2704	Banquerohan, Legazpi City
19	Virgilio Magayanes	T-13055 / 15384	9.5764	Bariis, Legazpi City
20	Goderhardo Calleja	T-20886 / 15371-A	12.3083	Cagbacong, Legazpi City
21	Aida Strauss & Leona Strauss	T-29558 / 15869 & 17362	16.2878	Banquerohan, Legazpi City
22	Fernando Rivera & Cenon Rivera Jr.	UT / 7212	14.8326	Malobago, Guinobatan, Albay
23	Juan G. Rivera	UT / 7647	9.6510	Mailpo, Guinobatan, Albay
24	Hrs of Martin Achaval	UT / 2688	11.8837	Cotmon, Polangui, Albay
25	Joaquin Buenviaje	UT / 12261	10.6076	Balinad, Polangui, Albay
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30	Amado Sy	T-64482 / 3858	13.6302	Tula-tula Pequeño, Ligao City
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34	Liberato Proliamanto	T-44818 / 777-A	15.1628	Herrera & Nabonton, Ligao City
35	Segundino Caber	PA-2347 / 6348-C	15.8321	Abella, Ligao City
36	Domingo Collado	PA-3143 / 6739	6.6273	Catburawan, Ligao City
37	Lourdes Guanzon	VH-2688 / 3372-P	6.2087	Ranao-Ranao, Ligao City
38	Mariano Vilerbo	LOT # 1623	5.4307	Binanowan, Ligao City
39	Claro Oxima	T-17998 / 4995-P	16.7343	Busac, Ligao City
40	Wenceslao Ojano	VH-1385 / 6768	15.8515	Bololo, Guinobatan, Albay
41	Rizalina Saquido	OCT-P-28617 / 12274	2.1494	Buyo, Polangui, Albay
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45	Severina Belen-Calleja	RT-382(434) / 5449	12.2948	Diaro, Malinao, Albay
46	Concepcion Peña	T-34647 / 191	0.8672	Jonop, Malinao, Albay
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81	Benjamin Espiritu	TCT-RT-10857(3495)	86.8303	Binobong, Pili, C.S.
82	Ramon Imperial	TCT-RT-11565(396)	35.3649	Binanuaanan, Pili, C.S.
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89	Rodolfo General	OCT-447	12.0000	Panicuason, Naga City
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91	Rafael Tayag	OCT-840	13.3284	Mangapo, Sipocot, C.S.
92	Damiana Ravanera	Csd-05-013463(AR) Lot 56, Pls-737-D	25.2074	Calascagas, San Fernando, C.S.
93	Damiana Ravanera	CSD-05-013464(AR) Lot 559	38.8139	Calascagas, San Fernando, C.S.
94	Damiana Ravanera (Final Notification)	CSD-051732-009533(OLT)	78.4910	Calascagas, San Fernando, C.S.
95	Erlinda Ravanera (Final Notification)	CSD-05-0002904(OLT)	19.0133	Sagrada, Minalabac, C.S.
96	Erlinda Ravanera (Final Notification)	CSD-05-002965(OLT)	56.9736	Sagrada, Minalabac, C.S.
97	Erlinda Ravanera (Final Notification)	CSD-05-012297-D(AR)	1.6875	Sagrada, Minalabac, C.S.
98	Erlinda Ravanera (Final Notification)	CSD-05-000766-D(AR)	8.3648	Sagrada, Minalabac, C.S.
99	Norberto Evangelista	OCT-91 & OCT-6028; Lot No. 1 & 2, 927		Canlubi and Oga, Pandan, Catanduanes
100	Hrs. of Marcelino Sanchez c/o Celestino Sanchez	OCT-11954; Lot No. 3030, Pls-821	8.2940	Salvacion, Pandan, Catanduanes
101	Hrs. of Caridad Fernandez	OCT-4972; Lot No. 1860, Cad-413-D	6.8748	Tubli, Caramoran, Catanduanes
102	Hrs. of Armando Aldea	OCT-5391; Lot No. 515, Cad-413-D	6.0683	Toytoy, Caramoran, Catanduanes
103	Hrs. of Castor Merisiela	P-9968	5.4177	Armenia, Uson, Masbate
104	Hrs. of Castor Merisiela	P-9927	0.9847	Armenia, Uson, Masbate
105	Antonio Morales now Lourdes Fontelar	P-1995	6.9141	Dapdap, Uson, Masbate
106	Yvonne Clores	T-4367	14.9855	Dapdap, Uson, Masbate
107	Maria Guinto	P-1968	13.5971	Simawa, Uson, Masbate
108	Hrs. of Atanacio de Jesus	O-103		
		Lot 3525	13.1268	Mabuhay, Balud, Masbate
		3832	2.3226	San Andres, Balud, Masbate
		3841	0.5217	San Andres, Balud, Masbate
		3743	5.9612	San Andres, Balud, Masbate
		3672	2.8064	San Andres, Balud, Masbate
		3679	3.1226	San Andres, Balud, Masbate
		3554	8.6267	San Andres, Balud, Masbate
		3847	18.7704	San Andres, Balud, Masbate
		3864	13.5667	San Andres, Balud, Masbate
		3675	9.0764	San Andres, Balud, Masbate
		3838	0.2537	San Andres, Balud, Masbate
109	Cleotilde Abelita, hrs. of	P-2113	19.4016	Danao, Balud, Masbate
110	Cleotilde Abelita, hrs. of	P-2113	1.1083	Danao, Balud, Masbate
111	Hrs of Ponciano Estrella	P-13549	6.7566	Quinyangan, Balud, Masbate
		P-13584	7.5648	Quinyangan, Balud, Masbate
		P-13222	0.3665	Quinyangan, Balud, Masbate
		P-13220	3.1387	Quinyangan, Balud, Masbate
		P-13221	1.5166	Quinyangan, Balud, Masbate
112	Flora Ramirez	P-11335	5.1760	Quinyangan, Balud, Masbate
113	Susana Y. Lim	T-5940	9.0109	Mayngaran, Masbate City
114	Emperatriz Cos	T-38	18.8762	Pawa, Masbate City
115	Rosauro Mauleon	T-224	16.1004	Pawa, Masbate City
116	Antonio Rosero / UCPB	T-1037	20.0081	San Pablo, Mandaon, Masbate
117	Amador Pandaan	P-1361	8.8576	Talib, Aroroy, Masbate
118	Toribio Capinig	P-2678	11.8780	Talib, Aroroy, Masbate
119	Gloria Clores	T-982	20.3823	Aurora, Uson, Masbate
120	Cresita San Juan Ty	P-9035	8.8351	Aurora, Uson, Masbate
121	Milagros Briones	P-2081	11.3683	Matalangtalang, Aroroy, Mabato
122	Montenegro Dev't. Corp.	T-1200	13.0826	Nabasagan, Claveria, Masbate
		T-1352	16.4110	Nabasagan, Claveria, Masbate
		P-1883	12.9468	Nabasagan, Claveria, Masbate
		Lot 2991	414.0152	Pobl. Dist. 1, Claveria, Masbate
123	Argentino Belio	T-11259	15.9070	San Isidro, Claveria, Masbate
124	Bebe Dy	P-5827	10.8158	Buyo, Claveria, Masbate

Whenever applicable, you have the right or privilege to:

1. Apply for an exemption clearance or for exclusion from CARP coverage.
2. Choose your retention area not exceeding five (5) hectares pursuant to Section 6 of R.A. 6657
3. Nominate your children who may qualify as preferred beneficiary/ies for the subject landholding.

To exercise any of the above rights/privileges, the necessary application or petition should be filed before the Government incurs any expense necessary for acquisition and distribution of the subject landholding, within thirty (30) calendar days from publication of this Notice of Coverage (NOC).

Within thirty (30) days from date of this publication, you are required to submit to the DAR Provincial Office (DARPO) a sketch map of the area you intend to retain. Otherwise, the DAR will identify and choose the retention area in your behalf.

The privilege to nominate your child/ren who may qualify as preferred beneficiary/ries is waived if you fail to submit to the DAR Municipal Office (DARMO), within thirty (30) days from the day of this NOC, the proper application with the complete names of your nominees, their address, birth dates, and other relevant information.

(Sgd.) SALVE C. TONGCO
OIC-PARO II (Albay)

(Sgd.) LEONITO M. GAVERIA
OIC-PARO II (Camarines Sur)

(Sgd.) ALEXANDER T. TEVES
OIC-PARO II (Catanduanes)

(Sgd.) RODRIGO O. REALUBIT
OIC-PARO II (Masbate)

(PDI–March 20, 2007)

Editor has mixed emotions to junking of parricide raps

By DJ Yap

RELIEF COUPLED WITH GRIEF WAS the reaction of the husband of slain media executive Delia Gutierrez upon learning that the parricide charges against him had been dismissed, his lawyer said.

"Now he can move on with his life," Teddy Rigoroso said of Ibarra Gutierrez, who was accused of killing his wife.

"But there's still grief because he lost his wife and his children lost their mother," the lawyer told the INQUIRER in a phone interview. "He just wants to put all this behind him."

Delia was the president and chief executive officer of Media G8Way Corp., publisher of PC World magazine, while Ibarra served as editor of the magazine and chair of the company.

On Sept. 6, Delia's body was found inside the office toilet at Eurovilla II Building at 118 Rufino St., Legaspi Village. She had several stab wounds on the chest and a slash on the neck.

Last Friday, the Makati City prosecutor junked the parricide charges against Ibarra, saying there was insufficient evidence to prove he was responsible for his wife's death.

Assistant City Prosecutor Henry Salazar said the investigators relied mostly on "circumstantial evidence" and could not fully establish Ibarra's motive. The evidence did not indicate that Delia was assaulted, and based on the preliminary investigation, she may have killed herself, he added.

At one point during the preliminary investigation, the couple's children, Paolo Lorenzo, Debra Andrea, Juan Carlo and Miguel Raymundo filed a motion seeking the dismissal of the case which they described as "absolutely preposterous."

The initial autopsy conducted by Voltaire Nulud, the police medico-legal officer, said the "wounds inflicted on the body of the deceased were not self-inflicted and that she did not commit suicide." But forensic pathologist Raquel Fortun said the evidence indicated the death was "intentional and self-inflicted."

The INQUIRER tried to talk to Ibarra for comment, but Rigoroso said his client preferred to keep silent. Delia's relatives also declined to comment.

Of golf and graft

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

IT SEEMS THE ARROYO ADMINISTRATION, despite its vaunted antigraft campaign, can't do any project without irregularities tailing it.

The multimillion-peso infrastructure projects to spruce up Metro Cebu for the recent Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Summit is a case in point.

What was supposed to be a showcase of the Filipino's design and construction ingenuity turned out to be a showcase of graft and greed. Reports are now coming out about the alleged 2,000 percent overprice of the lampposts in a private resort on Mactan Island.

Street lamps that were supposed to cost only P11,000 and P30,000 per unit were overpriced at P350,000 each.

The government should lose no time in going after the contractors, Gampik Construction and Development Inc., and Fabmik Contractor, as well as some DPWH officials allegedly involved in the scam.

My friends in Cebu told me Gampik is owned by contractor Gerardo S. Surla, who is very close to a high DPWH official.

Surla is often seen playing golf with this DPWH official at the Intramuros Golf Club. This is probably the reason you don't see this official making much noise about the multimillion-peso scam.

* * *

I have been approached by politicians interested in making an election issue out of the controversy surrounding the P315-million smuggling and tax evasion case filed against Oilink International Corporation, the oil supply company of Unioil Petroleum Phils. Inc., before the DOJ.

But I turned them down because I believe the smuggling and tax evasion case filed against Oilink and Unioil owner Paul Co and brokers Noel Aro, Rolando Valeriano and Norman Galera is about justice and not about politics.

Something is definitely wrong with our justice system since the has case gathered dust at the DOJ while the government bled from hundreds of billions of revenues lost in alleged oil smuggling and tax evasion.

A case of injustice similar to the Acsa Ramirez case, the whistleblower in the Oilink tax evasion controversy, Galera ended up being accused of the crime he reported to the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG).

Acsa Ramirez was a Landbank executive who exposed irregularities at the bank, but was instead charged along with those whom she accused.

In his motion for reconsideration at the DOJ, Galera pointed to Valeriano and Aro as the real architects of smuggling and tax evasion operations of their brokerage firm, in cooperation with unscrupulous customs officials.

In his complaint, Galera even related how, in one incident, Aro tore up a bill of lading to help Co escape paying about P8 million in taxes.

* * *

The son of a well-known retired Supreme Court justice has a lot of judges and justices in his "stable."

One of these judges plays golf with the lawyers of litigants. During rounds of golf, negotiations and arrangements are made. Another contact, a Court of Appeals justice, most recently had a serious medical problem.

After that problem, in which this magistrate claims to have a "spiritual reawakening," his "asking price" for a case to be settled in his division has trebled.

As for that son of the prominent retired high court justice, I wonder if his father knows what he's doing.

'Meager' meal leads to killing of ma

By Jeannette I. Andrade

A 29-YEAR-OLD MAN SUSPECTED OF being drunk and high on drugs killed his mother at midnight yesterday in Novaliches, Quezon City after they argued over a meal of dried fish.

Herman Marana Cervantes, a resident of Block 12 Lot 19, Recomville Subdivision in Barangay San Agustin, later gave himself up to policemen, still dressed in the overalls he was believed to be wearing when the crime was committed.

The overalls were stained with blood.

Investigators of the Quezon City Police District Criminal Investigation Unit said Cervantes killed his mother, Nenita, 49, a vendor by hitting her in the head with a block of stone.

The incident, the police said, occurred at around 12:30 a.m. yesterday in a vacant lot on Citizen Street in Interville Subdivision of the same barangay where the victim was a caretaker.

The two reportedly argued over their meal which consisted of dried fish.

Investigators said Cervantes complained about the meager meal and asked his mother for money to buy other food. Nenita, however, refused and berated him for being jobless. She also threatened to bring him back to the drug rehabilitation center.

According to the police, the suspect had just completed a drug rehab program.

Nenita's threat, however, irked her son who picked up a large block of stone and hit her.

Cervantes fled after the incident but surrendered later to barangay officials. He was then turned over to the custody of the police.

The suspect is now detained at the QCPD-CIU pending the filing of charges against him.

JV cool to Comelec date for cityhood plebiscite

By Santiago R. Alcantara

COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS CHAIR Benjamin Abalos wants to hold the plebiscite for the cityhood of San Juan simultaneously with the May 14 elections, Mayor JV Ejercito said yesterday.

Ideally, the plebiscite should be held on April 12, one month after the bill transforming the municipality of San Juan into a city became a law on March 12, according to the mayor.

"It's the law that's going to be violated if Abalos insists on holding the plebiscite on May 14," he added.

"Abalos wants the ratification (of San Juan's cityhood) be held on May 14 *pero ayoko dahil magulo*," Ejercito said after leading his constituents in a "boodle fight fiesta" in front of the municipal hall. San Juan is marking its 100th anniversary on March 27.

At the same time, Ejercito also announced the granting of a P3,000 centennial bonus to the municipality's over 1,100 government employees.

Fiesta

The mayor joined his constituents in eating fiesta food of fried tilapia, chicken and pork abodo, and lechon, among others, using his hands during the boodle fight.

Among the guests were San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora, Genuine Opposition spokesperson Adel Tamayo, Vice Mayor Leonardo Celles and other town officials.

The mayor's mother, Guia Gomez, also partook of the food on three makeshift long tables with banana leaves serving as plates.

"Can we do this every year? This is very enjoyable. It's very Filipino," Gomez told her son.

In the celebration, Ejercito revealed that Grace Domingo Singson will be pitted against him in the mayoral race.

"*Kamag-anak daw ni* (Team Unity senatorial candidate Luis) Chavit (Singson)," Ejercito said.

DID YOU KNOW

ON MARCH 10, 1785, Charles III of Spain created the Royal Philippine Co., which was given the exclusive right to bring to Manila goods from China, India and other parts of the Philippines, and to ship these directly to Spain via the Cape of Good Hope. It was abolished in 1834 when Manila was opened to world trade.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

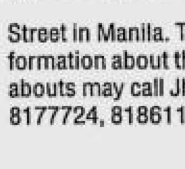
METROBRIEFS

Worried sister

FORMER actress Rochelle Barrameda yesterday sought the help of the National Bureau of Investigation in finding her 26-year-old sister. Barrameda was accompanied by her father, Robert, when she reported the disappearance of her sister, Rubyrose Jimenez. Barrameda said they last saw Jimenez on Wednesday afternoon before she went to a bank to deposit money on board her green Mitsubishi Gallant car. Barrameda said her sister's disappearance might have something to do with the complaint Jimenez filed against her estranged husband, Manuel Jimenez III. The complaint, for violation of Republic Act 9262 or the Anti-Violence against Women and Children Act of 2004, was later dismissed. Assistant Regional Director Vicente de Guzman, chief of the bureau's Special Action Unit, said they have asked Manuel to submit himself to the NBI for investigation.

Tina G. Santos

Missing girl



HANNAH Philina Marie Honrado, 13, has been missing since March 15. She was last seen at the KFC restaurant on España corner P. Campa Street in Manila. Those who have any information about the victim's whereabouts may call Jho Gonzaga at 8177724, 8186113, or 8186158.

US to maintain ban on aid to new Palestinian gov't

JERUSALEM—THE UNITED STATES and Israel on Sunday agreed to keep a ban on financial aid to the new Palestinian government, but in a break with the Jewish state, Washington left room for contacts with non-Hamas ministers.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert made clear talks on Palestinian statehood with President Mahmoud Abbas of Fatah were not an option at this time and appealed to the international community to shun the government until it recognizes Israel and renounces violence.

Israel has vowed to boycott the new government in its entirety, including non-Hamas ministers.

US National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley said Washington would not deal with the Palestinian government, but the US consulate-general in Jerusalem said some contacts with ministers who are not Hamas members would be permitted on a case-by-case basis.

Hadley told CNN that the new government had not undertaken to recognize Israel, abide by existing agreements and renounce violence and that Washington "would only deal with this government when it accepts those principles."

Palestinians hope the partnership between Abbas' secular Fatah faction and Islamist Hamas will stop factional fighting and ease a crippling aid embargo that has increased poverty.

Abbas appointed Hamas' long-time foe, Mohammad Dahlan, to oversee the divided Palestinian security forces.

At the government's first meeting in the Gaza Strip, officials said their goal was to quickly end infighting that has killed more than 300 Palestinians in the past year.

"We know it is a difficult mission," the new Palestinian information minister, Mustafa al-Barghouthi, said.

Micaela Schweitzer-Bluhm, spokesperson for the US consulate in Jerusalem, said the year-old US ban on direct aid to the Palestinian government would remain in place until it met the principles demanded by the "Quartet" of Middle East mediators.

"This must continue to be the measure for any (financial) support," she said. "There's no change in our assistance policy. But we remain committed to providing assistance to the Palestinian people and we'll continue to do that through the UN and other organizations."

Israel has also vowed not to hand over to the unity government tax revenues it has been withholding.

Olmert said contacts with Abbas would be limited to matters related to "the quality of life of the Palestinian population."

"The new government, as it has been declared and presented, limits our ability to conduct a dialogue with...(Abbas) and narrows the range of issues which we might have been able to discuss in the coming period," he told his cabinet. *Reuters*

WELCOMING SPRING
Participants dressed in traditional costumes march during a floral tribute for the "Virgen de los Desamparados" (Virgin of the Defenseless) in Valencia March 18. The floral tribute is part of the Fallas Festival, which welcomes spring and honors Saint Joseph's Day. REUTERS

Japan, China historians meet to tackle past

TOKYO—HISTORIANS FROM JAPAN and China began a second round of talks on the nations' long and sometimes troubled history on Monday as a diplomatic furor simmered over Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's remarks on wartime brothels.

The two-day meeting of 20 academics, 10 from each side, is expected to agree to take up sensitive subjects including the Nanjing Massacre for discussion in subcommittees, Kyodo news agency quoted bilateral sources as saying.

The group aims to conclude the study with a report in 2008.

It first met late last year in Beijing after Abe met Chinese President Hu Jintao in a fence-mending visit there in October.

Abe has made it a priority to repair bilateral ties with China and South Korea, strained by his predecessor's repeated visits to a Tokyo shrine to war dead that is seen by Beijing and Seoul as a symbol of Japan's militarism during World War II.

But Abe sparked outrage overseas by saying earlier this month there was no proof that Japan's government or army had forced women, mostly Asian and many of them Korean, to serve Japanese soldiers in brothels during World War II.

He has since sought to dampen the furor, which threatened to cloud summits with Chinese and US leaders, by repeating that a 1993 Japanese apology to the "comfort women"—as they are known in Japan—stood and expressing sympathy for their suffering. *Reuters*

Math experts solve E8

WASHINGTON—AFTER FOUR YEARS of intensive collaboration, 18 top mathematicians and computer scientists from the United States and Europe have successfully mapped E8, one of the largest and most complicated structures in mathematics, scientists said late Sunday.

Jeffrey Adams, project leader and mathematics professor at the University of Maryland said E8 was discovered over a century ago in 1887, and until now, no one thought the structure could ever be understood.

"This groundbreaking achievement is significant both as an advance in basic knowledge, as well as a major advance in the use of large-scale computing to solve complicated mathematical problems," Adams said.

He added that the mapping of E8 may well have unforeseen implications in mathematics and physics which won't be evident for years to come.

E8 belongs to so-called Lie groups that were invented by a 19th century Norwegian mathematician, Sophus Lie, to study symmetry.

The theory holds that underlying any symmetrical object, such as a sphere, is a Lie group.

Balls, cylinders or cones are familiar examples of symmetric three-dimensional objects.

However, mathematicians study symmetries in higher dimensions. In fact, E8 itself is 248-dimensional.

The scientists said the magnitude of the E8 calculation invited comparison with the Human Genome Project.

While the human genome, which contains all the genetic information of a cell, is less than a gigabyte in size, the result of the E8 calculation, which contains all the information about E8, is 60 gigabytes in size, they said.

This is enough to store 45 days of continuous music in MP3-format. If written out on paper, the answer would cover an area the size of Manhattan. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

US Senate to subpoena Rove in firings

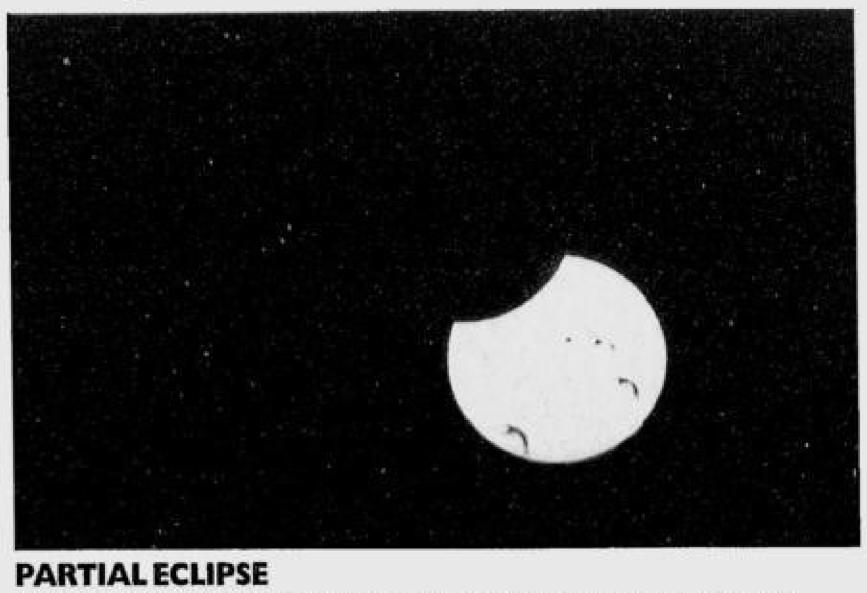
WASHINGTON—The Senate Judiciary Committee chair intends to subpoena White House political strategist Karl Rove and other officials involved in firing US prosecutors and is dismissing anything short of their testimony under oath in public. "I am sick and tired of getting half-truths on this," Democratic Senator Patrick Leahy said Sunday. "I do not believe in this 'We'll have a private briefing for you where we'll tell you everything' and they don't." At issue is the firing of eight US attorneys, dismissals that Democrats say were politically motivated. Such prosecutors serve at the pleasure of the president. The White House was expected to announce early this week whether it will let Rove, former White House counsel Harriet Miers and other officials testify. If the White House refuses to make the officials available, the subpoenas could result in a legal showdown between newly energized Democrats and a White House weakened by the unpopularity of the Iraq war. *AP*

First-class flight with a corpse

LONDON—A passenger in first class woke up to a shock when he found himself sitting near a corpse on a British Airways flight, British newspapers reported on Monday. Paul Trinder, 54, said cabin crew moved the body of the elderly woman from the economy section where she had died after take-off, the Mirror and Sun tabloids said. "The corpse was strapped into the seat but because of turbulence it kept slipping down on to the floor," Trinder, a businessman, was quoted as saying. "It was horrific. The body had to be wedged in place with lots of pillows." British Airways has apologized for any distress suffered, according to the reports. The Mirror quoted BA as saying: "We apologize, but our crew were working in difficult circumstances and chose the option they thought would cause least disruption." *Reuters*

New washing machine does it faster

TOKYO—For Japanese people who want their lives to be even faster, a company on Monday unveiled a washing machine billed to be the quickest in the world. Mitsubishi Electric said it has made the first machine that changes angles automatically depending on the volume of clothes and function. The "Moving Drum" machine can wash nine kilograms of clothes in 35 minutes and dry six kilograms in 145 minutes—half the time of a traditional washer. *AFP*



PARTIAL ECLIPSE
Birds fly past as the sun rises with a partial eclipse as seen from Chennai, India, Monday, March 19. AP

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KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PROCUREMENT SERVICE
Room 508, 5th Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The DepED-Bids and Awards Committee (DepED-BAC) invites eligible bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for Supply and Delivery of the following:

Package	Lot	Item Description of Goods	No. of Units / Item	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Pre-Bid Conference	Bid Submission deadline/ Opening of bids	Price of Bidding Documents (non-refundable)
A	1	Officiating Officials Uniform (Jacket, 1 long sleeves T-shirt with collar and 1 short sleeves with collar and cap) all with logo	900	Php 810,000.00	March 22, 2007 10.00 A.M.	April 3, 2007 2:00 P.M.	P 1,000.00
	2	Sports Bag with toiletries	900	Php 249,300.00			
	3	Promotional Items (T-Shirt, Short Sleeves, with logo, cotton, colored, with collar)	350	Php 63,000.00			
B	4	I.D., Athletes, Officiating Officials, Coaches, Chaperones, Delegation Officials	11000	Php 297,000.00			
C	5	Laptop (wide screen, Intel Core 2 duo 1.66 GHZ processor, 1 GB DDR 2 SBRAM CD/DVD combo writer/recorder, built-in webcam & built-in speaker) Windows XP Professional	3	Php 195,000.00			
	6	Printer (HP Office Jet 5610 All-In-One)	1	Php 10,000.00			
	7	Multi-media projector	1	Php 35,000.00			
D	8	29" Colored TV	1	Php 15,000.00			
	9	DVD player/recorder	1	Php 5,000.00			
E	10	Video/Digital Camera 6 megapixel	1	Php 50,000.00			
F	11	Two-Way Radio UHF (Motorola GP 300 radius)	15	Php 75,000.00			
G	12	**ARNIS** Head Gear (2 red & 2 blue) Body Vest (2 red & 2 blue) Groin guard (2 red & 2 blue) Padded Sticks Electronic Scoreboard with case and flags	59	Php 48,640.00			
H	13	**ATHLETHIC** Relay Batons hallow aluminum	10	Php 65,900.00			
		Javelin Aluminum Discus	8	Php 8,350.00			
		Discus (wood) Iron Shot Finish Post painted white Lane Umpire Stool, aluminum	8	Php 22,700.00			
		Height and Distance Indicator, Side Plates and rotating 350 Starting blocks with 7" center blocking base adjustable	36	Php 78,750.00			
		Crossbar for Pole Vault and High Jump Fiberglass tape measure (50 & 100)	15	Php 232,250.00			
		Lap Counter (1-25 laps) Upright post for pole vault Measuring rod for pole vault Sprint hurdles with 6 height Plasticine marker Plasticine clay Signal flaglets Judges and Starters' Assistant Athletes Number with no. 001-1344 x 2 Without Number, white cloth Flag (6 ½ feet) cutting signal for 800M Wind sacks with pole (red orange)	2887	Php 575,970.00			
I	14	**ARCHERY** Bjorn Target faces 80 cm	100	Php 60,000.00			
		Target Butts 52" with cover	20	Php 108,000.00			
		Scoresheets	700	Php 3,500.00			
		Calculators -ordinary	6	Php 600.00			
		Archers back numbers	180	Php 5,040.00			
		Megaphone with siren	1	Php 1,500.00			
		Measuring tape - 50 meters		Php 2,625.00			
		Device for measuring angle of target butkesses and height of center of target faces	3	Php 1,000.00			
		Wind flags (yellow)	30	Php 3,000.00			
		judge flags (red)	60	Php 6,000.00			
J	15	**BADMINTON** Shuttle Cock	75	Php 49,500.00			
		Badminton Nets	8	Php 8,800.00			
		Portable Scoreboard (Score Indicator)	4	Php 30,000.00			
K	16	**BASKETBALL** Basketball Clock Timer (Table Model) Basketball Ball Basketball ring net (multi-color) Scorebook (conventional-big) 30 Sec. Clock (table Clock), dual Timer Foul Indicator (Nos. 1-5) Substitution Indicator Time-Out Indicator	78	Php 96,540.00			
L	17	**CHESS** Chess Clock, FIDE Standard Chess Board, FIDE Standard Wall Clock (1' diameter) Scoresheets (FIDE Standard)	68 68 2 1,500.00	Php 229,460.00			
M	18	**BASEBALL** Little League Balls Secondary Baseball Ball Little League Bat, aluminum, imported Bases, standard, local Pitcher's Plates Umpire/Catcher's Mask Shin (leg) guard, fiberglass Batting Helmet Scorebook Indicator (EVERNEW)	84	Php 174,750.00			
N	19	**FOOTBALL** Soccer Football Net Stopwatches Scorebook (Local/Imported) Corner Flag (5' x 2" Diameter) Substitution Nos. 1-15 (4 sets) 6"x 8"	102	Php 51,500.00			
O	20	**SOFTBALL** Balls, softball, ISF standard Bat, softball aluminum, imported, Umpire's Mask with throat protector, Scorebook, new edition Bases, 3 pcs. To a set (5"x5"15") Leg guard (fiberglass), SUNFLEX Homeplate Running Helmet, Standard Umpire's Indicator Batting Helmet, SUNFLEX Pitcher's Plate, Chest Protector, Catcher's Mask with Throat Guard Flagpole with red & white flags	80	Php 174,560.00			
P	21	**TABLE TENNIS** Balls, NITTAKU brand, "3 Star" (doz)	10	Php 1,440.00			
		Net Assembly (DOUBLE HAPPINESS/ PF-4 Brand)	12	Php 2,040.00			
		Tables (ITTF Standard), Blue w/	12	Php 120,000.00			
		Score Indicators	12	Php 1,920.00			
		Player's number (1-128)	4	Php 25,800.00			
Q	22	**BOXING** Gong with striker Boz competition gloves (ALBERTO Competition Boxing Head Handwrapping Bandages(katsa) Bandage (roll) Mouth Guard	1109	Php 107,940.00			
R	23	**TENNIS** Ball, SLAZENGER (tube)	320	Php 80,000.00			
		Lawn Tennis Net with cable wire, official (for Doubles court) complete with 3 straps	8	Php 25,600.00			
		Stringing machine (table type)	1	Php 6,000.00			
S	24	**SEPAK TAKRAW** Ball, synthetic materials	50	Php 27,500.00			
		Net, with cable wire	4	Php 4,400.00			
		SIPA Balls, synthetic materials	25	Php 10,750.00			
		Sipa Net, with cable wire	4	Php 4,400.00			
T	25	**TAEKWONDO** Reversible Body Protector, Groin Guards, Arm Guard/Shin Guard Set, Head Gear, Medium, Table scoreboards	471	Php 320,040.00			
U	26	**GYMNASTICS** Balance Beam w/7 pcs. Landing mat Floor Exercise Mat 2" rubberized Vaulting Horse with Athletes Number (001-300)x2 Flaglets (3 green,5 red) 12"x12" w/ aluminum handle Rhythmic Gymnastics Ribbon @P255 Ball@P445 Hoop@P585 Rope@P395	693	Php 293,100.00			
V	27	**SWIMMING** Lap Counter	8	Php 55,600.00			
W	28	**VOLLEYBALL** Ball, leather Volleyball net cable wire, official, OTTO Brand (1/2 cm-diameter) Volleyball net with antennae, fiberglass Volleyball Scoresheet. Bicycle Air pump with gauge Substitution Numbers (1-18) White flags for Linesmen Buzzer (Big)	254	Php 65,720.00			
X	29	**COMMON ITEMS** Stopwatches without printer Starting caps Megaphone with siren Sound System/Karaoke (SepakTakraw/Sipa/ Lawn Tennis) Bell (Brass)	191	Php 441,660.00			

Bids received that exceed the ABC per package shall be rejected. The actual Items Description of Goods are specified in the Technical Specification of the Bidding Documents. A bidder shall bid for at least 100% of the quantities of all the items in each Package, and may bid for one or all of the Packages. Bid price evaluation and award shall be on a per item basis as shown in the Technical Specification of the Bidding Documents.

The Venue for Pre-Bid Conference and Submission and Opening of Bids is at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal I Bldg. DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City. The End user is Task Force School Sports (TFSS). Bidders may submit bids before April 3, 2007 during office hours to the BAC through the BAC Secretariat at the address indicated in the next paragraph.

The Bidding Documents shall be available at the BAC Secretariat, Procurement Service, Room 508, 5th Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, starting on March 20, 2007 upon payment in cash of non-refundable fee indicated above.

Bidding shall be conducted in accordance with procedures under the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Information is also available at http://www.deped.gov.ph or www.procurementservice.org or call DepED-PS at telephone no. 636-65-43 or fax no. 636-65-42.

DepED-BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, or declare failure of bidding at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected parties.

(Sgd.) TEODOSIO C. SANGIL, JR.
Undersecretary and BAC Chairperson

(PDI – March 20, 2007)

Supreme Court of the Philippines
Judicial and Bar Council
Manila

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) announces that pursuant to its policy and practice, the following first five qualified Presiding Justice & Associate Justices of the Court of Appeals are automatically considered for nomination to the position of **ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT** *vice* Hon. Romeo J. Callejo Sr., who will compulsorily retire on 28 April 2007: Presiding Justice **RUBEN T. REYES** and Associate Justices **CONRADO MELCHOR A. VASQUEZ JR.; PORTIA-ALIÑO HORMACHUELOS; MARTIN S. VILLARAMA JR.;** and **ANDRES B. REYES JR.**

Comformably with Section 1, Rule 7 of the Rules of the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC-009), as amended, the public is hereby invited to the panel interview of the aforementioned candidates together with the other candidates for the said position, at the Division Hearing Room, Ground Flr., New Supreme Court Building, on the following dates and time:

March 28, 2007
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

1. **ACOSTA**, ERNESTO D.
2. **BRION**, ARTURO D.
3. **DE CASTRO**, TERESITA Leonardo

2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

4. **FLORES**, TERESITA Dy-Liacco
5. **HORMACHUELOS**, Portia Aliño
6. **LOCK**, CHRISTOPHER O.

March 29, 2007
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

1. **ONG**, GREGORY S.
2. **REYES**, ANDRES JR., B.
3. **SANDOVAL**, EDILBERTO G.

2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

4. **VASQUEZ** , CONRADO MELCHOR JR., A.
5. **VILLARAMA,** MARTIN JR., S.
6. **VILLARUS**, FRANCISCO JR., H.

Presiding Justice RUBEN T. REYES and Justice EDGARDO P. CRUZ of the Court of Appeals, who are candidates for the same position, were already interviewed by the JBC on 19 January 2007.

The JBC also announces that the following are candidates for the position of **ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS** *vice* Hon. Roberto A. Barrios, who passed away on 18 February 2007:

1. ACUÑA, EDMUNDO T.
2. AGLORO, GUILLERMO P.
3. ALHAMBRA, REYNALDO A.
4. ALIM, ROSE MARY M.
5. APURILLO, SALVADOR Y.
6. ARLES, HENRY D.
7. AYSON, RUBEN C.
8. BALONZO, FREDDIE D.
9. BARCELONA, III MANUEL C.
10. BARRIOS, MANUEL M.
11. BISQUERA, JOE-SANTOS B.
12. BORRETA, ABRAHAM B.
13. CORREA, LIBRADO S.
14. CHUA, ANITA G.
15. CRUZ, RAMON A.
16. CUEVA, EULOGIA M.
17. DELOS SANTOS, EDGARDO L.
18. DIAMANTE, FRANCHITO N.
19. DOMINGO, LORNA N.
20. DUMAYAS, WINLOVE M.
21. DUMDUM, JR. SIMEON P.
22. ERUM, BERNARDITA G.
23. ESCOBIDO, JOSE L.
24. ESPAÑOL, JR. JOSE M.
25. FABROS, AMELIA A.
26. FRANCISCO, RAYMUNDO T.
27. FRANCISCO, RENATO C.
28. FRUELDA, CARMELITA G.
29. GAERLAN, SAMUEL H.
30. GANAY, CLIFTON U.
31. GERONIMO, ISAGANI A.
32. GRULLA, CIELITO M.
33. HERRERA, JR. OSCAR C.
34. INFANTE, AMELIA T.
35. INOTURAN, NAPOLEON E.
36. INTING, SOCORRO B.
37. ITURRALDE, PHILBERT I.
38. KALLOS, ROBERT E.
39. LACAP, MERCEDES P.
40. LAZARO-JAVIER, AMY C.
41. LLOREN, EDGARDO T.
42. LOPEZ, ROMULO A.
43. MACALINO, FLORITO S.
44. MAYO, MANUEL A.
45. MEDINA, ADELAIDA A.
46. MUÑEZ, RENATO D.
47. NERI JR., GRACIANO B.
48. NIEVES, WILFREDO T.
49. PAREDES, MEINRADO P.
50. PAREDES, VICTORIA ISABEL A.
51. PATRICIO, ROGER B.
52. PE-AGUIRRE, THELMA C.
53. PERALTA, JR. EDUARDO B.
54. PINTO, OFELIA T.
55. QUERUBIN, PERLA B.
56. QUIROZ, ALEX L.
57. REGALA, LEAH D.
58. REYES, AMOR A.
59. SADAIN, MEHOL K.
60. SIAYNGCO, MANUEL DJ.
61. SORONGON, EDWIN D.
62. TANGUANCO, EDUARDO I.
63. VILLASOR, EDWIN A.
64. ZALAMEDA, RODIL V.

The public may submit sworn complaint, written report, or opposition against any of the aforesaid applicants NOT LATER THAN MARCH 27, 2007, to the JBC Secretariat, 2nd Flr., Centennial Bldg., Supreme Court, Padre Faura St., Manila (Tel. No. 552-9512; Fax No. 552-9598; e-mail address **jbc@supremecourt.gov.ph; jbc_supremecourt@yahoo.com.ph**

March 19, 2007

MSVillarama
MA. LUISA D. VILLARAMA
Clerk of Court & JBC
Ex Officio Secretary

(PDI – March 20, 2007)

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

US, N. Korea resolve bank row; talks begin

BEIJING—THE UNITED STATES SAID MONDAY IT HAD struck a deal with North Korea on a long-running financial sanctions dispute, clearing the way for progress in talks on ending Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program.

All of the roughly 25 million dollars in North Korean funds frozen in a Macau-based bank since 2005 over accusations of money laundering and counterfeiting will be released, chief US nuclear envoy Christopher Hill said.

"We feel this matter has been resolved and now we can move on to other problems, of which there are many," Hill told reporters after the US Treasury Department announced the deal.

The announcement came shortly before the start of a fresh round of six-party negotiations in Beijing aimed at ending North Korea's nuclear drive. The talks involve the two Koreas, China, the United States, Japan and Russia.

Pyongyang had insisted that it would not implement a six-nation accord reached on Feb. 13 until the sanctions dispute was resolved.

Under last month's deal, North Korea—which conducted its first atomic test in October last year—would get badly needed energy aid and diplomatic concessions in return for shutting down its nuclear programs.

North Korea was given 60 days from the signing of the agreement to close its main nuclear reactor at Yongbyon and allow International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors back into the country to supervise.

In return, North Korea would initially receive 50,000 tons of heavy fuel for energy.

The impoverished state would eventually receive one million tons of heavy fuel or equivalent energy aid if it permanently disbanded its atomic weapons program.

Hill said he now expected the initial provisions of the February accord to be implemented on schedule. *AFP*

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DEMONSTRATORS march during an antiwar protest in New York, Mar. 18. Calling for the 'defunding' of the war in Iraq or the immediate return of US troops, they marched through Manhattan and took their case to the offices of the state's two Democratic senators.
AP

Protests in US seek end to Iraq war

NEW YORK—ANTIWAR DEMONSTRATORS readied for at least 1,000 candlelight vigils around the United States on Monday, day four of protests demanding an end to the war in Iraq four years after it began.

"We cannot send tens of thousands of exhausted, underequipped and unprepared troops into the middle of an Iraqi civil war," left-leaning organizer MoveOn.org said in a statement, which claimed late Sunday that 1,100 vigils were planned around the country.

Thousands of antiwar protesters took to New York's streets Sunday, demanding US withdrawal of troops from Iraq, in a second day of national rallies marking the fourth anniversary of the war.

Organizers from the group United for Peace and Justice said between 25,000 and 30,000 people marched in the rally, which came a day after similar mass protests in Washington and Los Angeles. Police did not estimate the turnout.

A colorful mixture of students, cyclists, Vietnam war veterans and musicians marched through Midtown Manhattan, drumming and chanting slogans such as "Troops out now" and calling for President George W. Bush to be impeached.

Waving placards reading "Drop Bush, Not Bombs," and "Four Years Too Long," the crowds braved near-freezing temperatures as they marched under clear skies down streets lined with piles of snow.

"This is not a strange, lefty movement. This is the voice of the people," said actor Tim Robbins, a prominent and vocal critic of the Iraq war, who was among those leading the march.

"American people want this war to end, so when are we going to start listening to them?" he asked. "The main message is to stop this immoral war." *AFP*

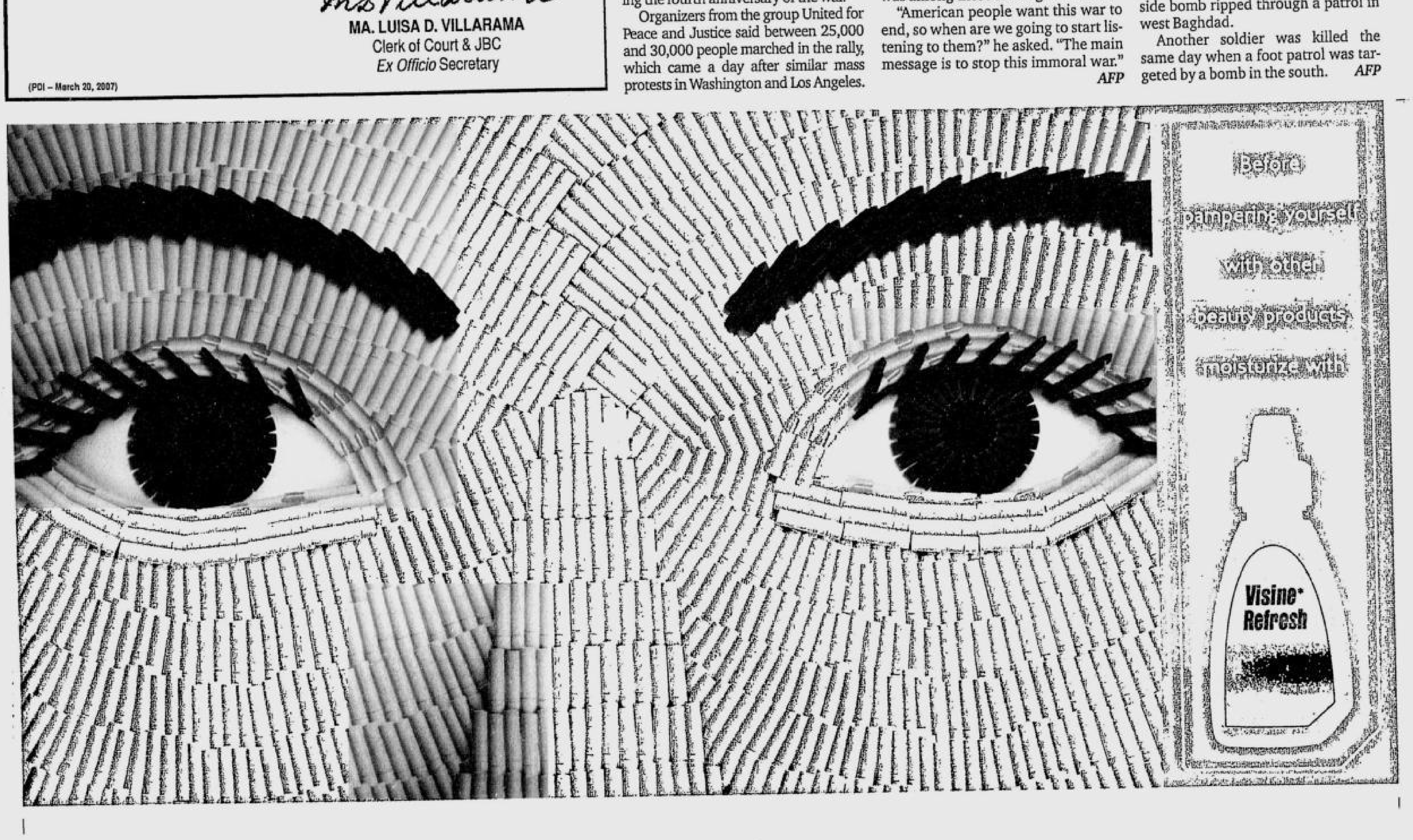
Insurgents kill 7 more US troops

BAGHDAD—INSURGENTS IN IRAQ killed seven more US troops as security forces said on Sunday they expected more chemical attacks after three dirty bombs left two policemen dead and 350 civilians sick.

Almost exactly four years after the US-led invasion, American casualties are still mounting as US and Iraqi forces battle to quell the insurgent and sectarian violence gripping the country.

The US military said four troops were killed on Saturday when a roadside bomb ripped through a patrol in west Baghdad.

Another soldier was killed the same day when a foot patrol was targeted by a bomb in the south. *AFP*



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WHAT'S INSIDE

Chot makes do with 11 cagers /A22

SPORTS

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Singh finally a winner at Palmer's Place /A23

Marquez: Pacman fight on hold

New WBC champ ready for 2nd Barrera clash

MANNY PACQUIAO IS OUT OF THE WBC super featherweight title loop for now.

Mexican warriors Juan Manuel Marquez and Marco Antonio Barrera shot down an immediate confrontation with the Filipino superstar after figuring in a fierce battle on Sunday that had fight fans clamoring for a rematch and promoters looking forward to another box-office blockbuster.

Marquez affirmed his greatness and wrested Barrera's crown by unanimous decision in what could be the "Fight of the Year." But Barrera, the "Baby Faced Assassin," did not disappoint either to the delight of the sellout crowd at the Mandalay Bay Arena in Las Vegas.

The victory boosted Marquez's stock no end. He said he is willing to give Barrera a chance to reclaim the title in a bout tentatively set on Sept. 15, Mexico's Independence Day, before taking on Pacquiao next.

"We're shooting for that date," said Golden Boy CEO Richard Schaefer, as quoted by Fightnews. "We'll have to talk to both camps first, but you heard the cheers. When the 12th round came, they weren't cheering for Marco Antonio Barrera or Juan Manuel Marquez—they were cheering for Mexico."

MARQUEZ: Pacquiao can wait

PACQUIAO: Out in the cold?

Marquez has said he wants another crack at Pacquiao, who is preparing at the Wild Card Gym in Los Angeles for his April 14 showdown with unbeaten Mexican Jorge Solis for the WBC International super featherweight crown at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas.

"I would like to fight Pacquiao," Marquez told Boxingconfidential.com. "The result of our first fight is a major thorn on my side."

In their first encounter in 2004, Pacquiao floored Marquez three times in the first round before the Mexican rallied to salvage a controversial draw and keep his WBA and IBF featherweight belts.

Now, Marquez feels he is ready to return the favor and restore Mexican pride that had been pricked many times by Pacquiao.

Barrera, on the other hand, is asking for some time to reflect on whether to go on or hang up his gloves.

"I will do what the fans want," Barrera told Boxingconfidential. "But first, I want to take a vacation. Spend some time with my family."

He also wants to avenge his 11th round TKO defeat to Pacquiao in 2003, but at this stage he may not be up to the challenge anymore.

Logically, Marquez should be pitted against Pacquiao next, but the Filipino's contract problems with Golden Boy Promotions make that unlikely to happen within the year.

Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor

BAUTISTA

Boom Boom keen on P. de Leon fight

UNDEFEATED YOUNG FILIPINO boxing sensation Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista relishes the prospect of a future meeting with World Boxing Organization super bantamweight champion Daniel Ponce de Leon of Mexico.

But Bautista is in no hurry to fight the man who beat Gerry Peñalosa via a highly criticized unanimous decision in Las Vegas on Saturday.

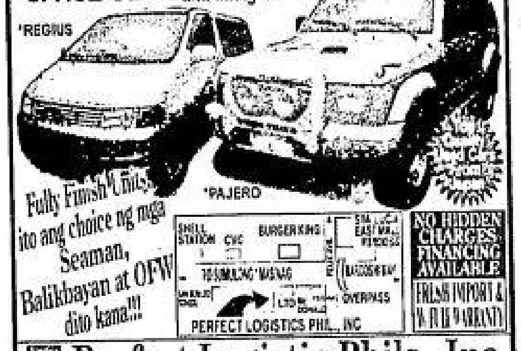
"Let him wait for me," Bautista told Philboxing.com. "I'll face him after I have taken care of Sergio Medina on May 5."

Bautista (22-0, 17 KOs) and

BOOM BOOM/ A22

Sa iba mura daw As-is naman, may hidden charges pa

*PAJERO *BIG HORN *HI-ACE *FRIENDEE *SPACE GEAR and many more...



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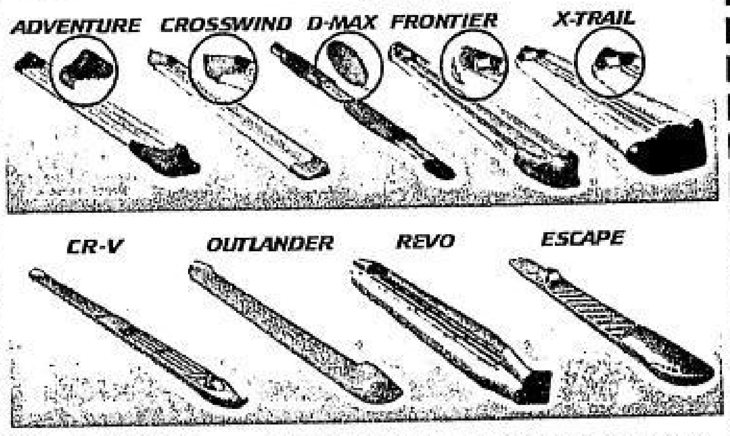

by SHARK

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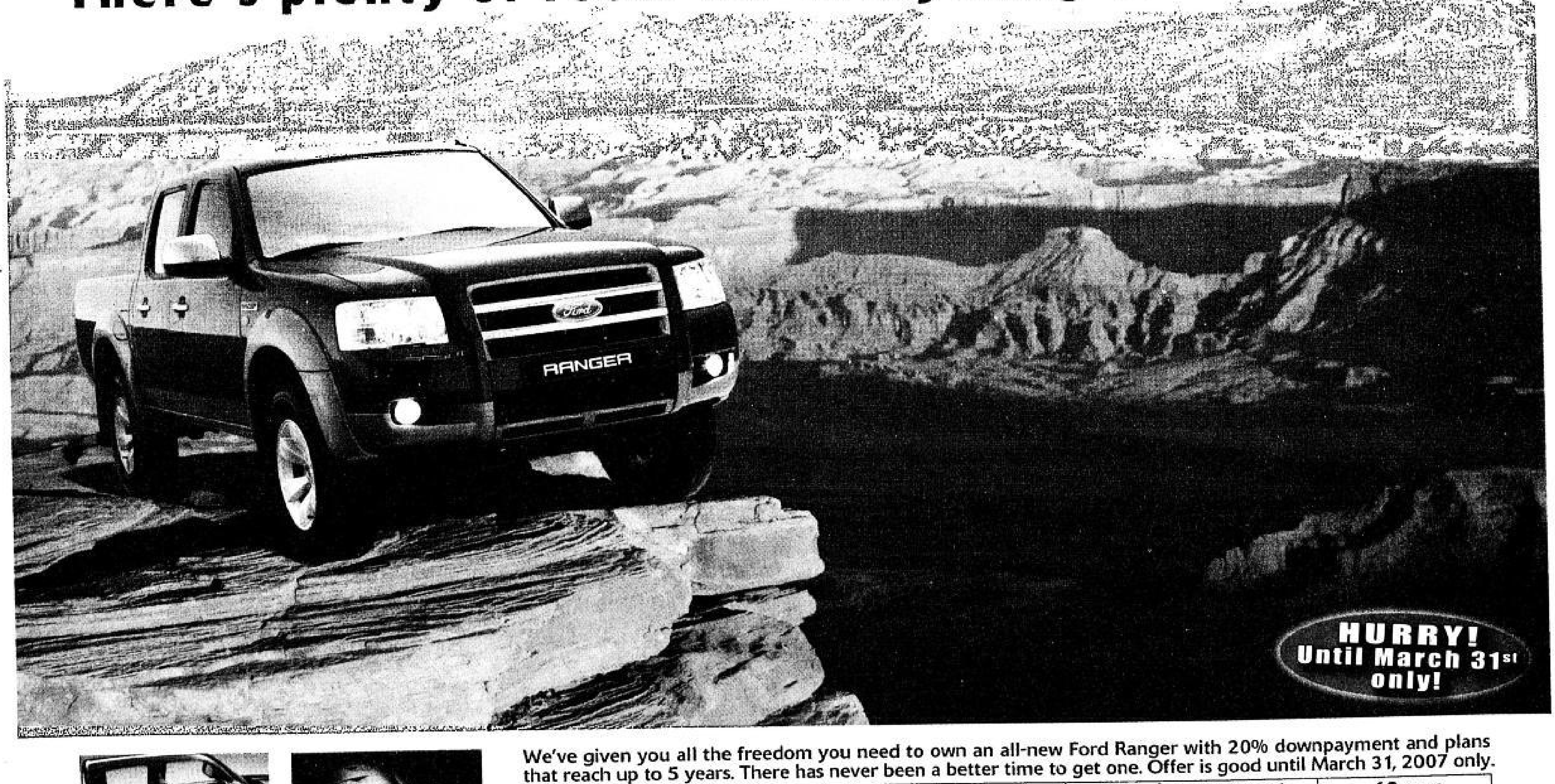

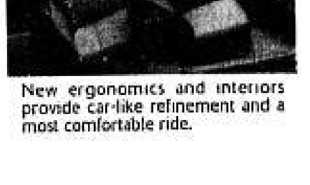

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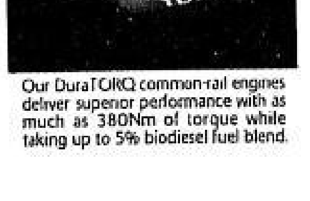

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Baculi wary of Harbour-RP's Champions Cup rivals

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE QUALITY OF THE OPPOSITION worries Philippine team coach Junel Baculi as he prepares to name today the national selection to the Southeast Asian Basketball Association (Seaba) Champions Cup next month.

"We're very wary," Baculi said the other day after concluding the three-day tryout for the PBL selection that will carry the Harbour Centre-RP team banner in the Jakarta club event from April 9 to 13.

"I think our problem right now is we do not have the luxury of scouting their imports. Malaysia has an American coach, so they might get good imports and we're not sure who they are. Thailand also has an American coach."

The Seaba tournament, the country's first regional stint in two years, allows teams to field two imports each.

"We're really trying our best to send the best possible imports and the best possible PBL players," said Baculi.

The veteran tactician tabbed host Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand as the top contenders in the tournament that serves as qualifier for the Fiba-Asia Champions Cup in Iran this September.

Baculi will announce the official lineup today at the PSA Sports Forum in the company of BAP-Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas president Manny V. Pangilinan, team financier and Harbour Centre owner Mikee Romero, PBL commissioner Chino Trinidad and chair Gil Angeles.

The Philippine Olympic Committee and the Philippine Sports Commission earlier gave their blessing to the national team's participation in its first regional competition after the Fiba (international basketball federation) lifted on Feb. 21 the country's suspension from international tournaments.

"I believe that if we bring our best available amateur players, we have a pretty good chance of winning the tournament," said PSC chair William "Butch" Ramirez.

POC spokesperson Joey Romasanta also commended the PBL for adjusting its tournament calendar so its top players can join the RP squad.

"It shows that everyone is willing to cooperate and sacrifice to attain one common goal," said Romasanta.

Expected to lead the RP selection are JC Intal, Jason Castro, Chico Lanete, Jojo Duncil, Marvin Cruz, Patrick Cabahug, Al Magpayo and Larry Rodriguez.

Julius Nwosu, a 6-foot-10 former NBA back-up center who already saw action as a PBA import, had been tapped to beef up the young roster.

FOR U.S. TRIP

Chot makes do with 11 cagers

By Musong R. Castillo

CHOT REYES SAYS HE WOULD LOVE TO have Kelly Williams in the Philippine team, but thinks that the timing may not sit well with his PBA team, Sta. Lucia Realty.

"We don't know how feasible it would be (for Sta. Lucia) if we pull him (Williams) out at this time," Reyes said at the end of an energized three-hour practice session yesterday at the Moro Lorenzo gym in Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

"Besides, we're not trying to rush things. We'll make the final decision when we get back from the (United) States."

Reyes said he would likely take just 11 players with him to Los Angeles for a grueling two-week training camp that begins at the end of the month after Rudy Hatfield begged off from joining the team. The Barangay Ginebra player's replacement has not been named.

The team departs for California on March 29 and will stay there for 14 days.

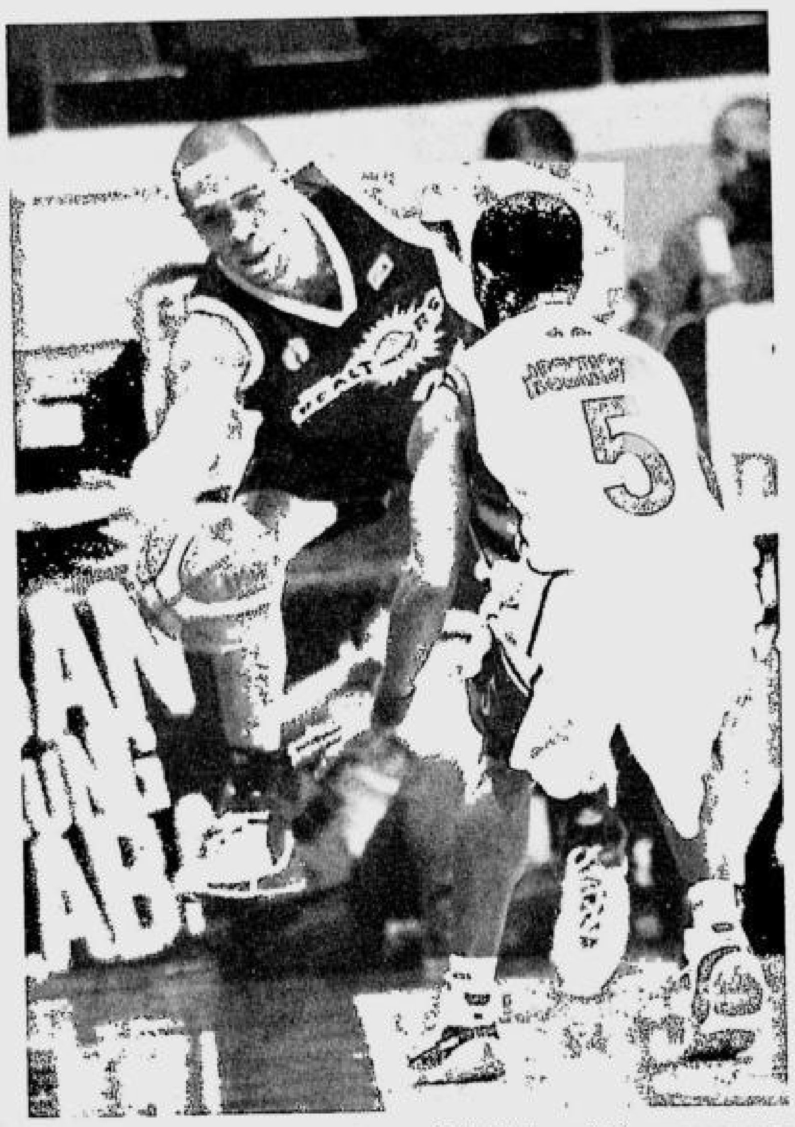
They will return for the PBA All-Star break, proceed to Iran for the Asian Champions Cup from May 9 to 14, before competing in the Southeast Asian Basketball Association championship which they are expected to rule in Thailand.

Reyes said that Rafi Reavis would have taken Hatfield's spot, but the Ginebra center is set to go under the knife today to fix a shoulder injury.

While Reyes had named Reavis and two other big men as alternates—Enrico Villanueva and Rommel Adducul—he said the "depth charge" on the position originally for Hatfield is reserved for Reavis first, Williams second and then either Marc Pingris or Anthony Washington.

Meanwhile, Mark Caguioa joined the team practice for the first time yesterday. He was a little off after a three-week layoff but was in high spirits despite leaving his sick mother in the States.

"I would have wanted to take care of her for a longer time," Caguioa told the INQUIRER. "But I also would like to come home and show everyone that I love playing for my country."



12TH MAN?: Sta. Lucia has final say on Kelly Williams (left). AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Chandler reinforces Purefoods tomorrow

MARQUIN CHANDLER WENT THROUGH the required height measurement for imports at the PBA office yesterday and will suit up for Purefoods when it battles another winless side in San Miguel Beer in the Fiesta Conference tomorrow.

At 6 feet, 5 and ¾ inches, Chandler will be the tallest import in the tournament when he takes the place of the ineffective Jesse King in the 7:20 p.m. game scheduled at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao, Quezon City.

"I have no choice but to field him," said Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio of Chandler, who has yet to fully recover from a recent MCL tear.

The Tender Juicy Giants have dropped their first three games, all in lopsided style, with the last loss coming on Friday opposite Sta. Lucia, 85-102, where King was held to just four points.

Chandler won the Best Import award in this tournament last year, nosing out James Penny of Red Bull.

But the Barako still went on to claim the championship in six thrilling games.

Chandler, whose stint with the Giants was his first professional exposure after coming out of college, has been in the country since the start of the tournament but has been kept in the freezer so he can recover from his injury.

The Beermen have also lost their first three games—and in even uglier manner—with first import Vidal Massiah proving to be a big disappointment and his replacement, Paul McMillan, failing to show that he is better.

In Lanao del Norte on Saturday, the Beermen were massacred by the Coca-Cola Tigers, 82-64, with McMillan scoring only 11 points and committing a tournament-record nine errors. *Musong R. Castillo*

Boom Boom keen on fighting Ponce de Leon

From page A21

Medina (28-0, 16 KOs) will slug it out underneath the Oscar De La Hoya-Floyd Mayweather superbout dubbed "The World Awaits," with the winner earning the right to challenge Ponce de Leon.

Cebu sportsman Antonio L. Aldeguer, Bautista's benefactor, was unequivocal about his ward's chances against the Mexican world champion.

"I have no doubt Boom Boom will win over Ponce de Leon," Aldeguer said. "I have so many of his fights on video."

Bautista, along with Alex John Banal, another unbeaten Filipino fighter, is set to depart for Puerto Rico, via Los Angeles, later this month to hook up with trainer Freddie Roach and De La Hoya.

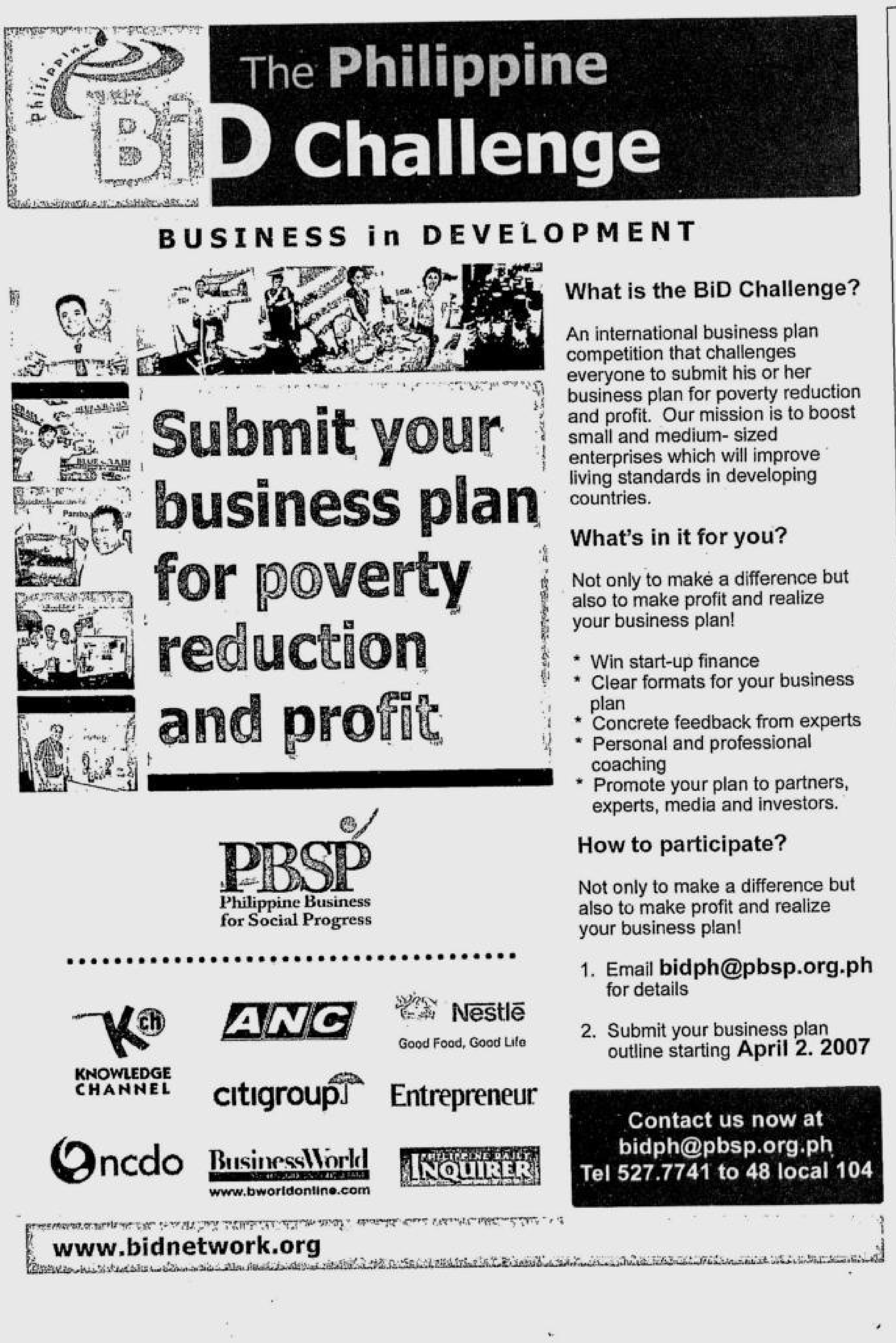
Meanwhile, Ponce de Leon (31-1, 28 KOs) admitted he was surprised by Peñalosa's tough stand.

"It was a much tougher fight than I expected," Ponce de Leon said at the post-fight press conference.

"He was a smaller guy and we underestimated him and were very confident we would take care of him. It was a learning experience. I learned, you can't always knock them out. It was good to go 12 rounds. It was a learning experience but I proved I can box, too."

Ponce de Leon then added that he would wait for the winner of the bout between Bautista and Medina.

Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor



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PSA Fistiana sports new look

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

I WELCOME THE GOOD NEWS THAT THE Philippine Sportswriters Association under the stewardship of Aldrin Cardona of the Tribune will revive the PSA Fiesta Fistiana benefit boxing card on April 29 at the Rajah Sulayman Park in Manila.

Supporting the annual slugfest are sports luminaries as Manila Sports Council head Arnold "Ali" Atienza, a former Asian taekwondo champion, and Games and Amusements Board chair Eric Buhain, a bemedalled swimmer during his time.

Promoter Bomber Pamiloza has been tapped by the PSA president to prepare a slambang card topbilled by the title defense of Philippine light flyweight champion Sonny Boy Jaro against challenger Alfred Nagal.

The fund-raising event is being revived this year not only to promote local boxing but also to help the country's destitute, disabled and retired boxers.

But instead of giving out cash, as had been the practice in the past, Ali and the GAB will dole out livelihood projects this time. Ali, through his father, Mayor Lito Atienza, will also provide the venue, security and cash prizes.

Republic Act No. 1373, passed in 1955, authorizes the Philippine Sportswriters Association to hold one benefit boxing show every year, the net proceeds of which constituting a trust fund for the benefit of disabled Filipino boxers. It was authored by the late Serafin Salvador, a Rizal congressman who had a passion for boxing and a big heart for the Filipino boxers.

The Fiesta Fistiana became a popular boxing show, most especially in the 1960s. However, it was overtaken by events. Then in 1996, Speaker Jose de Venecia and former Deputy Speaker Raul Daza, a diehard boxing aficionado who is now the governor of Northern Samar, helped revive this worthy undertaking under my term as PSA president.

In that PSA Fistiana, never-say-die Rico Siodora of Cagayan de Oro upset highly fancied American Cedric Mingo by an 11th round TKO to wrest the World Boxing Federation featherweight title.

Incidentally, the benefit card raised a substantial amount (the biggest ever on record) for the needy boxers. More importantly, the PSA submitted the proceeds to an audit by the accounting firm Sycip Gorres Velayo and Co., setting a good example for all fund-raisers.

The SGV audit was well-received and elicited a favorable response from all sectors, including the major sponsors such as San Miguel Corp., Philippine Long Distance Co., Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. and Philippine Air Lines.

In 1999, popular boxing champion Manny Pacquiao fought in the main event at the PSA Fistiana and he scored a second-round knockout of Reynante Jamili. Former world champ Gerry Peñalosa also appeared in the 2001 Fiesta Fistiana.

"We're no longer giving money this year," said the 34-year-old Atienza. "*Mas magandang kabuhayan ang ibigay natin sa kanila* (it's better to give them livelihood projects) because we've seen many boxers in the past who squandered their dole."

***

Dancesport returns with the staging of the second round of the 2007 Southeast Asian Games and the DSCPI 1st Quarter Ranking and Competitions-Alaxan FR Cup this Saturday at the Philsports Arena.

Held under the auspices of the Dance Sport Council of the Philippines, Inc., DSCPI president Becky Garcia said that athletes from all over the country are competing in both Latin and Standard discipline in several events.

Five International Dance Sport Federation-licensed adjudicators from Europe and Asia will act as judges in the blue-ribbon dancefest sponsored by Alaxan FR, Petron Corp., Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Philippine Sports Commission, Philippine Olympic Committee, Pagcor, 923 Joey, Water Zone, Edsa Shangri-la Hotel, Savannah Moon, Muebles Italiano, Zen Institute and Studio 116.

Assisting Ms Garcia organize the affair are members of the DSCPI board composed of lawyer Noel Laman, chairman; lawyer Josefina de Vera-Saliva, secretary general; Gloria Alcala, treasurer and directors lawyer Andy Fornier, Marvie Cojuangco-Yulo, Ambassador Antonio Lagdameo, Edward Hayco, Ruby Co, Chona Mercado, Nanette Mendoza, Emma Nieto, Rebecca Jose, Crisaldo Rendon and Victoria Alix.

Tickets are available at the Dance Sport Training Center, Philsports Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City. For other inquiries, call Anna/Lorien at 635-0116.

NBA STANDINGS

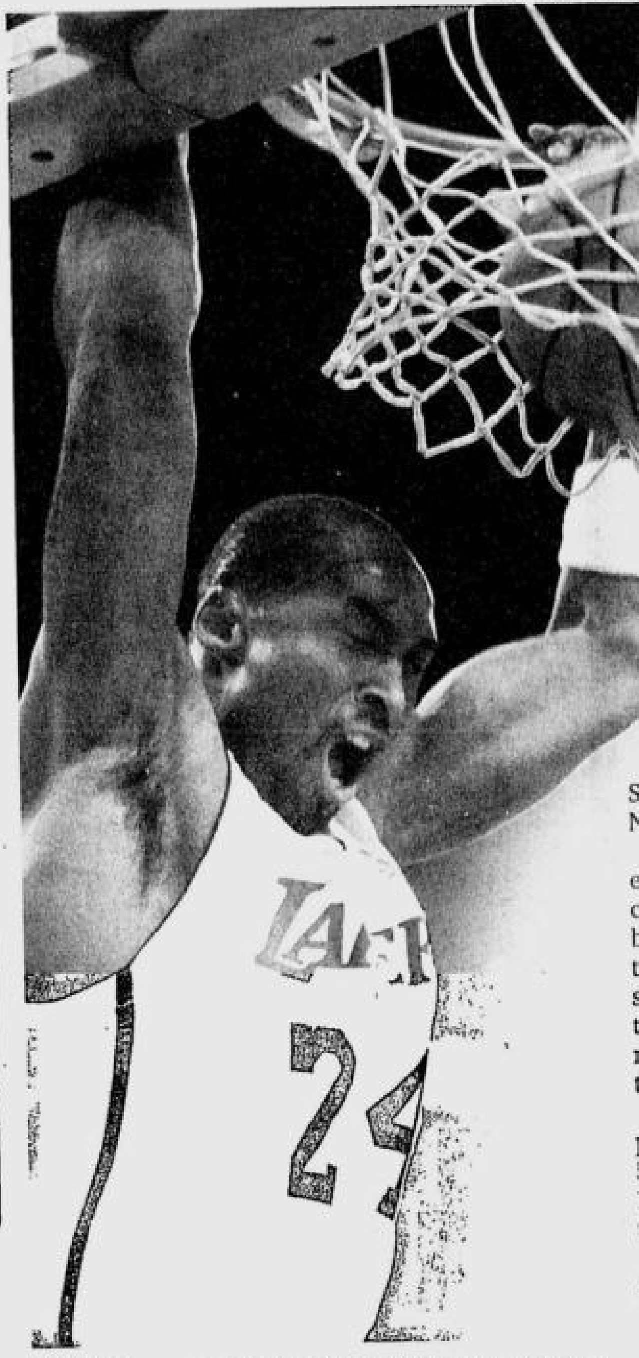
EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION	W	L
Toronto	36	31
New Jersey	31	36
New York Knicks	30	36
Philadelphia	26	41
Boston	20	46
CENTRAL DIVISION	**W**	**L**
Detroit	42	23
Cleveland	41	25
Chicago	39	29
Indiana	30	35
Milwaukee	25	41

WESTERN CONFERENCE

SOUTHEAST DIVISION	W	L
Washington	36	28
Miami	36	30
Orlando	31	37
Atlanta	26	41
Charlotte	24	43
NORTHWEST DIVISION	**W**	**L**
Utah	43	23
Denver	33	31
Minnesota	28	37
Seattle	26	40
Portland	26	40
PACIFIC DIVISION	**W**	**L**
Phoenix	50	16
LA Lakers	35	32
Golden State	32	36
LA Clippers	30	36
Sacramento	29	37
SOUTHWEST DIVISION	**W**	**L**
Dallas	54	11
San Antonio	46	20
Houston	42	25
New Orleans Oklahoma	29	37
Memphis	17	50

REUTERS
INQGRAPHICS: LOUIE BACANI


LAKERS superstar Kober Bryant slam dunks against the Timberwolves in Los Angeles on Sunday.

Kobe follows 65 with 50

Lakers overpower T'Wolves

LOS ANGELES—KOBE Bryant took over—again.

Bryant became the first Lakers player with consecutive 50-point games in 44 seasons, following a 65-point game with 50 against the Minnesota Timberwolves on Sunday in Los Angeles' 109-102 NBA victory.

"We talked about going to Kobe early in games and not waiting," coach Phil Jackson said. "He had been playing the team role, feeling the game out and waiting 'til the second half to get going. But there's just not enough time right now in the season to develop that."

Bryant became the first Lakers player with consecutive games of 50 or more points since December 1962, when Elgin Baylor did it in three straight games.

He scored 14 points in the first 8:12 to help Los Angeles build a 17-point lead.

"I'm just being more aggressive at both ends of the floor," Bryant said. "At this point in the season, it's important that I stress the sense of urgency that we have to have, and the type of emotion and energy that you have to play with."

Only two other players have recorded back-to-back 50-point games in the last 10 years. Antawn Jamison did it in December 2000 against Seattle and the Lakers (51-51), and Allen Iverson did it in December 2004 against Milwaukee and Utah (54-51).

It was Bryant's 17th career 50-point game, including Game 6 of the Lakers' first-round playoff series against Phoenix last May. They lost that game 126-118 in overtime, but Los Angeles is 12-5 when he scores 50 or more.

The Lakers' two games before Bryant's spree were a 108-72 loss to Dallas—the Lakers most lopsided defeat at home since the franchise shifted from Minnesota to Los Angeles—and a 27-point drubbing at Denver. Last season's NBA scoring champ credits the return of Lamar Odom and Luke Walton from injuries for making these last two games possible.

"Luke and Lamar both make my life a lot easier when they're out there because they're so good at recognizing situations on the floor," Bryant said. "They're great passers, so teams can't just front me or overplay me in certain areas. I think we as a team understand that in certain situations, they've got to bring it to me in the post or in the mid-post to allow me to facilitate or attack myself."

After shooting 23-for-39 from the field in Friday's overtime victory against Portland, Bryant was 17-for-35 against the Timberwolves in sending them to their 10th straight road loss.

Minnesota "held" the All-Star MVP to 40 points on March 6 in a double-overtime victory.

Complete results:

LA Lakers 109 Minnesota 102; Seattle 95 Portland 77; NY Knicks 92 Toronto 74; Dallas 92 Detroit 88; Houston 124 Philadelphia 74; New Jersey 101 LA Clippers 95; Orlando 97 Miami 83.

NBA on TV Today

8 a.m. – Boston vs NO/OKC (replays at 4 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.) *AP*

Gators claim Sweet 16 slot

NEW YORK—FLORIDA MOVED CLOSER TO a second consecutive championship by defeating Purdue 74-67 Sunday to advance to the Sweet 16 in the NCAA Tournament.

uniors Al Horford and Corey Brewer each scored 17 points to lead the Midwest Region's top seed over Purdue, a physical team that had dreams of an upset until the last few minutes.

"I think we knew coming into the game that it was going to be very, very physical," said Florida coach Billy Donovan.

While Florida (31-5) advanced to a third-round showdown with Butler in the regional semi-finals, second-seeded Wisconsin was stunned by number seven Nevada Las Vegas 74-68 behind 22 points by senior guard Wendell White.

UNLV improved to 30-6, the school's first 30-win season since the 1990-91 team advanced to Final Four. Next up is number three seed Oregon, a 75-61 winner over Winthrop. *Reuters*

Nadal aims for another grand slam

INDIAN WELLS, CALIFORNIA—PACIFic Life Open champion Rafael Nadal believes he is ready to win more tournaments on surfaces other than his favorite clay.

The 20-year-old Spaniard heads to the Sony Ericsson Open in Miami full of confidence after beating Novak Djokovic on Sunday to win his first title since June and with world number one Roger Federer firmly in his sights.

Federer's 41-match winning streak was ended by Argentine Guillermo Canas at Indian Wells and Nadal tok full advantage, knocking out top American Andy Roddick in the semis and seeing off Djokovic, 6-2, 7-5, in the final.

"Right now I am number two and Roger is number one and far away from the others," Nadal told reporters. "Roger is the best in history. For sure, my goal is to continue winning tournaments. But now to go to number one is very difficult, and I am not thinking about. But if I play like this, I can win another major."

Nadal had not reached a final since losing to Federer at Wimbledon last year but he has worked hard on his all-round game, particularly his serve.

"When you are not winning, you're thinking, 'Yeah, I need win one title,'" he said. "I was playing bad in Toronto and Cincinnati, but I played quarterfinals in the US Open, quarterfinals in Madrid and semi-finals in Shanghai even though I was playing very bad tennis. In Australia, quarter-finals too. I wasn't winning, but I was always there.

"Sometimes you're a little bit luckier and have a little more confidence. I wasn't a disaster."

Nadal holds an 18-3 record in finals and still owns a 6-3 career win-loss record against the 25-year-old Federer, who had only won three titles by the age of 20.

"I have a good record," Nadal said. "I know if I continue to improve my game, I gonna have the chances for a win more important titles. My goal is to continue to have titles like this and to try to win another grand slam." *Reuters*

RAFAEL Nadal: Full of confidence. AP

Quezon battles Valencia in NBC

VALENCIA CITY—EXPANSION TEAM QUEzon Villa Anita begins a three-game road trip in Mindanao today by facing Valencia Golden Harvest in the 2007 NBC National Cup basketball tournament here.

Quezon Gov. Wilfredo Enverga's cagers are expected to bounce back from a heartbreaking 75-78 loss to Pagadian in the 7 p.m. contest. But host Golden Harvest is keen on making a big start in the tournament.

Mayor Jose Galario Jr.'s Valencia squad will parade an almost intact lineup plus new recruits Ian Saladaga, Jason Malcontento and Mong Magdadaro.

The core of Julius Navales, Nat Cruz and 2005 Rookie of the Year Eliazar Berami will have a solid supporting cast this time as Valencia hopes to make it big in the nine-team series.

ANIL Buxil (right) turns over Molten ball to Auty Villarama (left) and Tito Palma.

"Management has formed a solid team," said team consultant Rico Oco. "We're looking forward to favorable results."

Coach Noli Tagsip's main concern is how to stop ex-pro Bryan Gahol, who has been averaging 18 points per game for Quezon.

Two other ex-pros—Ruel Buenaventura and Robin Mendoza—are backing up Gahol.

So far, Spring Cooking Oil-Tagaytay is on top of the heap with 2-0 card, followed by Pagdian (2-1) and Quezon (1-1).

Grand slam champion Ozamiz Cotta, Iligan and Montana Pawnshop-Davao are the other teams which have yet to see action.

Meanwhile, the NBC extended its partnership with Molten through its marketing arm Eaffle Marketing.

Waffle Marketing president Auty Villarama and NBC secretary general Tito Palma sealed the tieup with Sonia Trading's managing director Anil Buxil.

Singh finally wins at Palmer's place

ORLANDO, FLORIDA—VIJAY Singh kept staring at the silver trophy from the Arnold Palmer Invitational, turning it slightly at the base to make sure his name was finally on the list of champions.

SINGH

Even then, it must have been hard to believe.

Singh has been coming to Bay Hill for 15 years. He had left with nothing but three runner-up finishes and plenty of heartache. There was that bogey-bogey finish in 1994 to lose to Loren Roberts, the 7-iron into the lake on the 18th two years ago to lose to Kenny Perry.

He made sure that wouldn't happen on Sunday.

Singh played so well in the middle that it didn't matter how bad it got at the end. Even with a bogey-bogey-par finish, the 44-year-old Fijian still matched the best score of the final round with a 3-under 67 that gave him a two-shot victory over Rocco Mediate.

Singh, who finished at 8-under 272, became the first multiple winner on the U.S. PGA Tour this year. His 31st career victory tied him with Harry Cooper of England with the most by a foreign-born player.

Mediate made three clutch par saves to keep alive his hopes, only to find trouble on the 18th for a bogey and a 67.

Vaughn Taylor, who had a two-shot lead going into the final round, didn't make a birdie until the 15th hole. His only other birdie came on the 18th to give him a 73 and third place. Ben Curtis closed with a 72 to finish fourth.

Tiger Woods delivered a dramatic finish, but not the kind anyone expected.

His chances ended with a three-putt double bogey on the 11th hole, and then a bad day got even worse. Woods hit his tee shot into the water on the par-3 17th and made double bogey. After chipping out of the rough on the 18th, he hit his third into the water and made triple bogey for a 43 on the back nine.

He closed with a 76, his highest score in a regular U.S. PGA Tour event since a 76 in the third round of the Memorial four years ago. Woods wound up tied for 22nd, ending his streak of 13 straight top 10s worldwide, nine of those on the U.S. tour.

Woods left the course without comment. *AP*

SPORTSWATCH

Casino Filipino 'TC' golf tees off today

MORE THAN 100 INVITED PLAYERS WILL SEE ACTION IN THE 2007 CASIno Filipino Tournament of Champions-Asia's GEM Golf Invitational which fires off today at the West course of Wack Wack Golf and Country Club in Mandaluyong City. Shotgun tee-off starts at exactly 7:30 a.m. The event, which will be participated in by officials of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) and guest players, is one of the highlights of this year's Asia's GEM (Gaming and Entertainment + Leisure Expo Manila). Tons of prizes and elegant trophies will be given away to lucky winners and top players. The one-day competition is organized by the Pagcor Golf Club headed by Pagcor president and CEO Rafael "Butch" Francisco, together with Asian GEM and Tourism Foundation and Raymundo's Trophies and Sculptures.

Last 'Rambulan' elims at SJC tomorrow

COCKERS AND BREEDERS FROM METRO MANILA AND NEARBY provinces can still join the blockbuster "National Rambulan" 8-cock derby at San Juan Coliseum. Hosts Rodolfo Pineda and Butch Nunez said the last day of eliminations for the event, backed by Thunderbird Platinum, at SJC will be held tomorrow. Entries must be submitted today from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. For inquiries, call 725-5369, 725-6563, 0917-8041691 or 0917-8264018. SJC qualifiers will then compete on March 24 in the 3-cock semifinals. Eliminations in the event that offers a guaranteed prize of P10.5 million have also been held at the Isabela Breeders Cockpit, Malolos Sports Center, Jaen Coliseum, Mabuhay Cockpit, Pangasinan Coliseum, Solana Cockpit Arena and Sta. Rita Sportsville.

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—King's Choice (4), Azukarera De Mama (6), Classic Royale (3), Cheska Run (5)

Race 2—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Sir Barbaro (6), Getting Personal (8), Instant (9), Inspiring (7), So Georgeous (11)

Race 3—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Chicklet (7), Gemstone (5), Sun Chaser (6), Bombshell Beauty (3), Long Nose Hawk (9)

Race 4—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Head Turner (8), Revelation 93), Dancing Slew (2), Lady Tycoon (6), Top Most (1)

Race 5—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Piroutte (3), Look Of Love (4), Half Medium (2), Hoy Sobra Na (9), Hepburn (8)

Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Quasimodo (5), Magic Dancer (9), Capricorn Aida (8), Cool Turner (4), Look Who's Playing (7)

Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Kaligatan (10), Golden Lance (2), Advance Party (5), Words of Joy (11), Maricor's Charm (7)

Race 8—Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Yanong Rikit (7), Inca (4), Kim Possible (3), Crew Cut (6), Ledger Card (10)

TOP THREE: Overall winner Chris Pressler of Austria (center), runner-up Samuel Lawson of the US (left) and Filipino third placer German Paz show their prizes at the awards rites of the recent 19th Boracay International Funboard Cup. Fifty-two windsurfers and 34 kite surfers from 17 countries took part in the competition.

USC-North five overpowers Don Bosco for Visayas title

CEBU CITY—THE OFFENSE-ORIented trio of Rey Arnejo, John Pajantoy and Tecson Gacarma shone as University of San Carlos-North Campus outclassed Don Bosco College, 21-7, Sunday to capture the Visayas title of the 2007 Cherifer Tangkad Sagad Basketball Tournament at the Don Bosco Technology School in Barangay Punta Princesa.

Arnejo topscored with 11 points with Pajantoy and Gacarma contributing 4 apiece to power the USC squad to victory in the five-on-five tilt for boys' 12-under supported by Adidas. Coach Galimar Largo's quintet bested 19 other institutions.

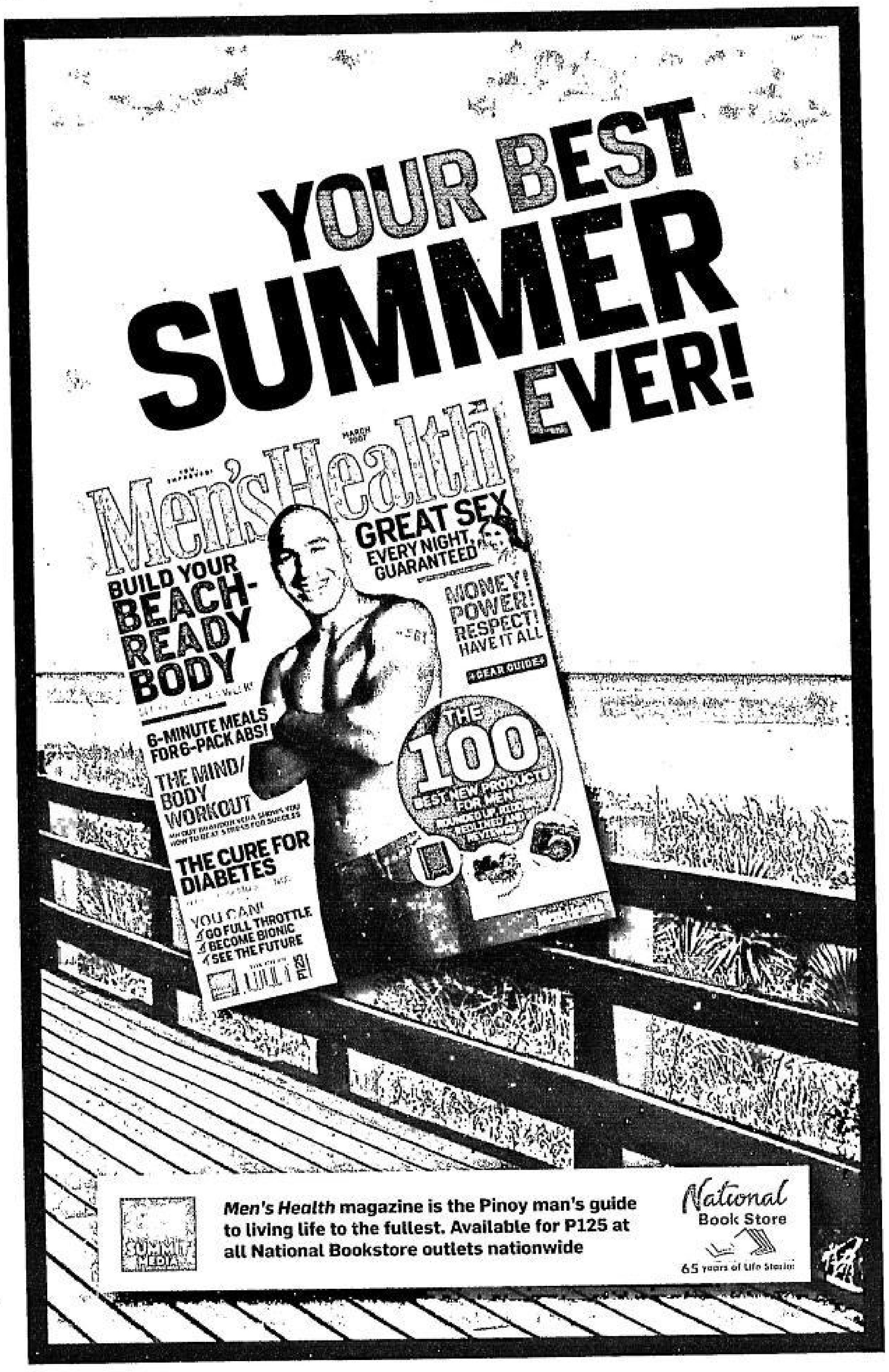
Product manager Tom Meneses, tournament director Ato Badolato, organizer Bernard Ocampo and project director Britt Reroma awarded the trophies and medals.

Lloyd, Victor make pool

LLOYD REYNANTE AND VICTOR Espiritu are bound to return to the national pool of cycling for road after emerging 1-2 in last month's first of a series of trials now being enforced by the national federation for sport, PhilCycling.

Reynante topped the massed start and individual time trial of the initial trials held simultaneously with Tagaytay City Mayor Bambol Tolentino's annual Pista ng Pag-ibig event to amass the maximum 40 points (20 points for first place per event). Espiritu, a former Tour champ, was second with 37 points.

The other notables in the top 10 are Lito Atilano (29 points), Baler Ravina (29), Arnel Quirimit (29), Ronnel Hualda (29), Dessi Hardin (17), Ericson Obosa (15) and Sherwin Diamsay (15). Roberto Gutierrez ended up with 16 points, but he could no longer make the national pool because he is already 38.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Woman accuses Arwind of abandoning her, child

By June Navarro

A CRIMINAL CASE OF ABANDONMENT has been filed against Air21 Express rookie Arwind Santos by a woman who claims to be his wife.

Karyn Maye Santos lodged the complaint at the sala of presiding judge Florencio Arellano of the Batangas City Regional Trial Court Branch 1.

The woman accused the former UAAP MVP of deserting her and their one-year-old child.

SANTOS: 2 cases

She claimed that the former Far Eastern University stalwart has failed to provide them financial support ever since he left their conjugal home on Lacson Street in Sampaloc, Manila, on Dec. 9, 2005.

Prior to the filing of the abandonment case, Karyn Maye also sought the court's help in forcing Santos to provide her a monthly support of P50,000, plus health insurance, educational plan and trust fund for the child.

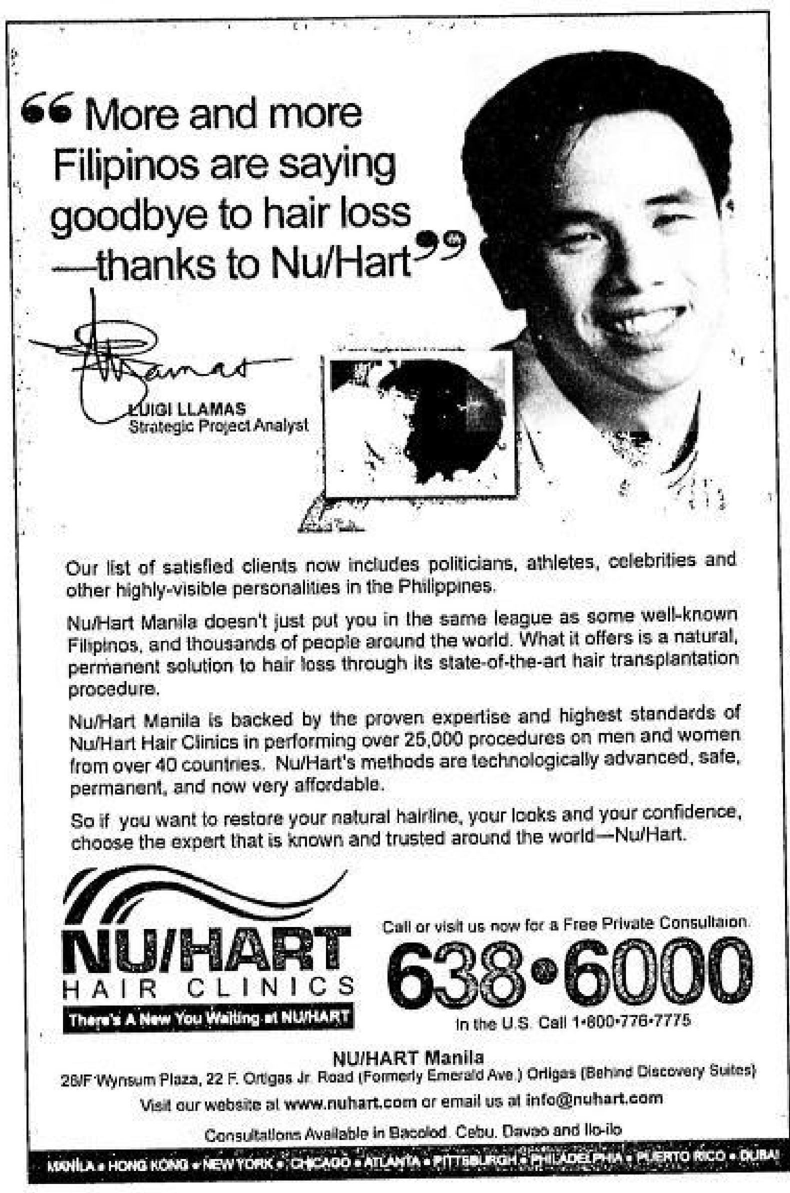
Karyn Maye, who was represented by lawyer Erwin Aguillera, also asked for P75,000 in attorney's fees plus P2,500 for every court hearing.

Arellano will hear the support case on Thursday. He entered a plea of not guilty on Santos' behalf during the arraignment of the case two weeks ago.

In her petition, Karyn Maye said they tried to work out a compromise with Santos to no avail, forcing her to file the first case on Feb. 20 last year and the abandonment case early this year.

Karyn May originally wanted to file a case for violation of Republic Act 9262, known as the Anti-Violence against Women and their Children Act of 2004, against Santos but was prevailed upon by city prosecutor Leona Castor Castillo, who recommended the filing of the abandonment case instead.

Air21 president and team manager Lito Alvarez said the team management would extend legal assistance to Santos, a vital cog in the Express' lineup.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ADBOARD
ADVERTISING BOARD OF THE PHILIPPINES

ADBOARD 2007 Induction

The Advertising Board of the Philippines (AdBoard) recently inducted the 2007 officers and board of directors in a spirited gathering at the Tower Club, Paseo de Roxas, Makati.

Well-loved Chinese dishes were served all around in keeping with the celebratory mood of the recent Spring Festival. The theme, "Back to the Future: Strength of the past. Foundation for the future." was a call to rise to the challenges of passing time. Like winter turns to spring and the past moves to the future, this year is a fresh start for AdBoard. It is a year to move ever forward.

"If we talk about the past tonight, it is because we are challenged to chart the future," said newly elected vice-chairman Blen Fernando in her welcome remark. Andre Kahn, now four-time Adboard chairman after the 2007 elections looked to the past as well in encouraging the organization to embrace and adapt to the changes of the industry.

Kahn was represented by his daughter, Francine Kahn Gonzales, to deliver his acceptance speech during the induction.

"The Advertising Board of the Philippines, now on its 32nd year, has to re-engineer itself to meet these changes and surmount the challenges of change. The rules of engagement between the various sectors have to be reckoned with, reviewed thoroughly, and redefined consistently," he wrote.

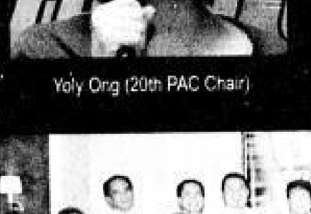
"Definitely, it is a very exciting time in our advertising history and that of the AdBoard. It is a challenge to be in a position where we can influence the changes, shepherd our members, and marshal the industry – to be safe, secure, stable, and mutually profitable for all sectors. Success can only be guaranteed when we all work together, focused on a common goal, communicating openly and effectively, to carry on the burdens of facing and coping with the challenges before us."

On this note, key speaker Herminio Ordoñez, Publicis-Manila chairman, stated, "AdBoard to me is a structure that administers among its members. It is so far the best model (of its kind) in Asia. No country in Asia has adopted the Adboard type of self-regulation as a product of free enterprise society."

The evening was alive with hope and confidence as the 2007 officers and board of directors were inducted into office. AdBoard is facing a new era filled with challenges but also with great potential. There is no doubt that with its constant endeavors to improve the organization, it would indeed bring the past and future to harmony.

Minyong Ordoñez, Chairman Emeritus of Publicis Manila

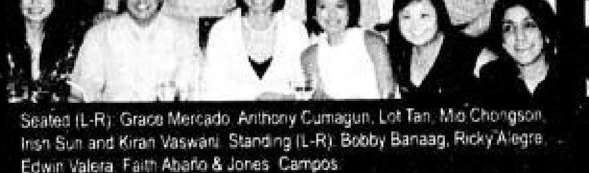
Francine Kahn-Gonzales

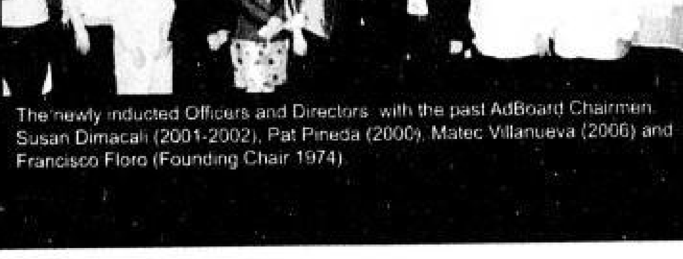

Yoly Ong (20th PAC Chair)

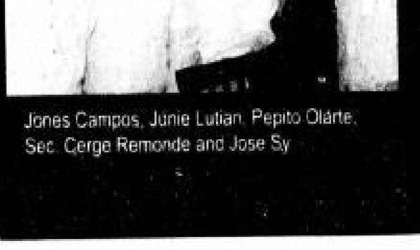
ADBOARD

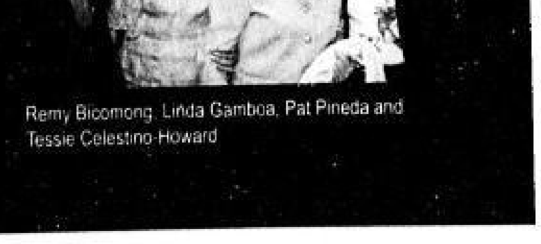
Vice Chair Blen Fernando , outgoing Chair Matec Villanueva and Corp Sec. Atty. Junie Lutian

Exec. Dir. Alex Castro, Paking Floro (AdBoard Founding Chairman), Blen Fernando & Johnip Cua


Seated (L-R): Grace Mercado, Anthony Cumagun, Lot Tan, Mio Chongson, Irish Sun and Kiran Vaswani. Standing (L-R): Bobby Banaag, Ricky Alegre, Edwin Valera, Faith Abaño & Jones Campos


The newly inducted Officers and Directors with the past AdBoard Chairmen, Susan Dimacali (2001-2002), Pat Pineda (2000), Matec Villanueva (2006) and Francisco Floro (Founding Chair 1974)


Jones Campos, Junie Lutian, Pepito Olarte, Sec. Cerge Remonde and Jose Sy


Remy Bicomong, Linda Gamboa, Pat Pineda and Tessie Celestino-Howard

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91-day T-bill rate inches up to 2.998%

Treasury rejects bids for 1-year securities

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE AVERAGE YIELD ON THE BENCHMARK 91-day treasury bill rate yesterday went up for the second straight week since hitting historical lows, rising to 2.998 percent from 2.935 percent during the previous auction.

In the belief that local yields have fallen too low, banks also pushed up the yields on the 182-day bills by 6.7 basis points to 3.462 percent from 3.395 percent.

However, the Bureau of the Treasury rejected all bids for the 364-day bills, the longest of all tenors.

Short-term interest rates have slid over the last five months, with the 91-day treasury bill rate hitting a record low of 2.885 percent a month ago. Recently, however, even Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said negative interest rates—or a

91-DAY/B2

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San Miguel seen to post 3-10% growth in '06 /B3
Clark airport starts P150-M expansion /B6

Foreign chambers push for open skies

By Ronnel W. Domingo

FOREIGN BUSINESS GROUPS ARE URGING Malacañang to reinstate liberal aviation measures, which they said were crucial for the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport to become a passenger and logistics hub in the region.

The Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce of the Philippines (JFC) said in a statement they supported efforts on the continued development of the Clark airport as one of the premier terminals in Asia. *(See related story on page B6.)*

JFC members include the American, Australia-New Zealand, Canadian, European, Japanese and Korean chambers and the Philippine Association of Multinational Companies Regional Headquarters.

Still, JFC pushed for President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to issue an executive order that defines rules on traffic rights in Clark as well as in the Subic International Airport.

There is already a such a draft order, which is to be EO 500-B, that will allow the easier entry of airline services, especially low-cost carriers.

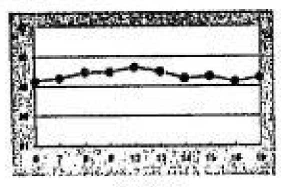
The draft order effectively reverses EO 500-A—issued in August 2006—that practically rescinded the "open skies" policy spelled out in EO 500 issued January 2006.

"To ensure long-term policy stability and ensure growth and investment, (we) recommend the adoption of EO 500-B as endorsed by the National Competitiveness Council,"

FOREIGN/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



MARCH

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

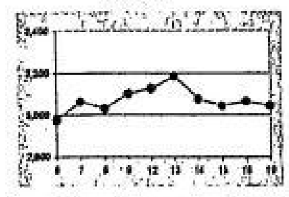
P48.725 = $1

As of 5 p.m., March 19, 2007

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

MARCH



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Stocks close lower

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.68-percent lower yesterday as caution prevailed ahead of the meeting this week of the rate-setting US Federal Open Market Committee, dealers said.

They said investors were waiting for a clear lead after recent turbulence sparked by fresh concerns over the US economic outlook, with the Federal Reserve meeting potentially a key marker.

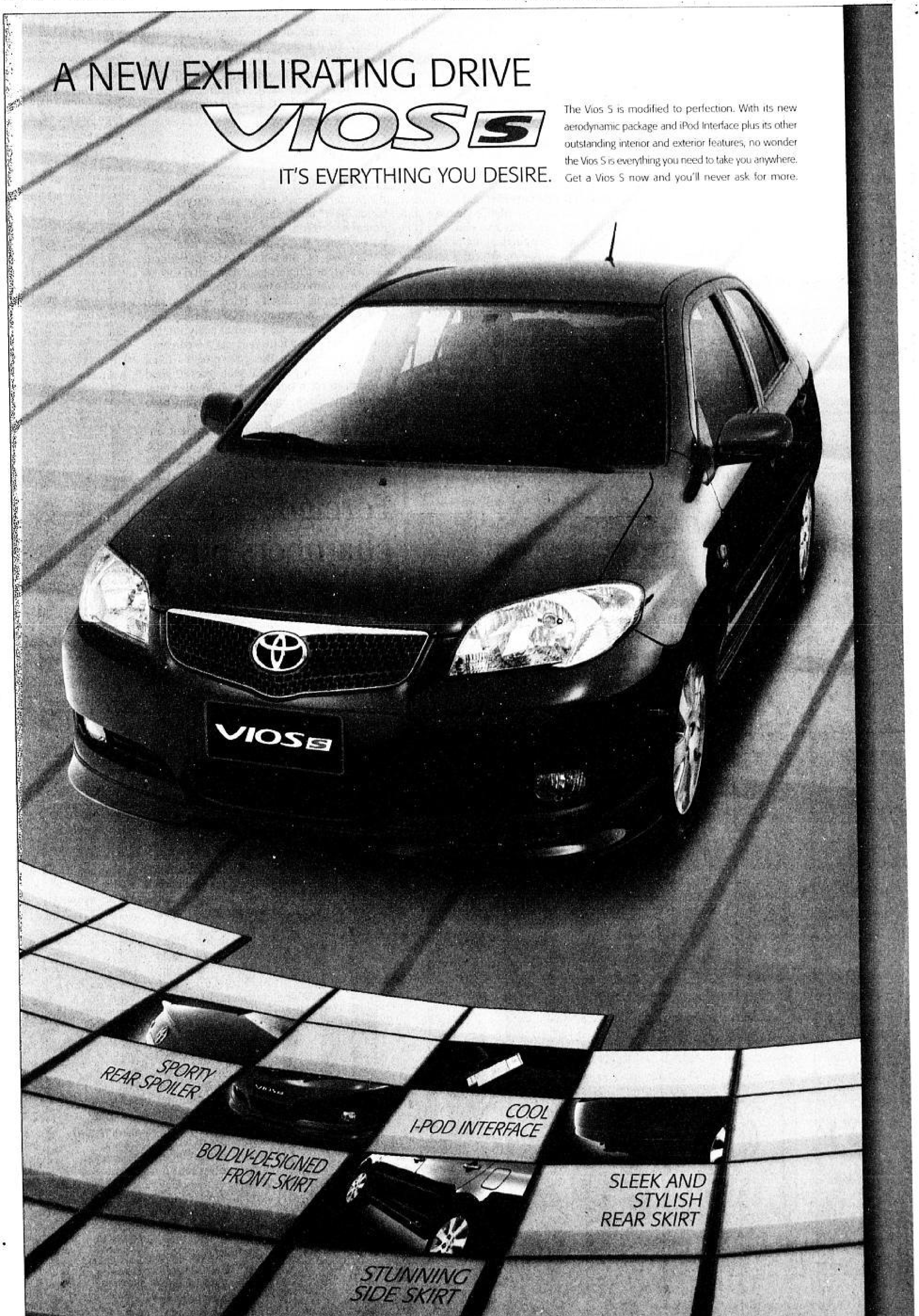
The composite index shed 20.87 points to 3,041.38 after trading between 3,035.66 and 3,065.03.

The broader all-share index fell 10.14 points to 1,970.31.

Declines led gains 53 to 44 with 57 stocks unchanged. Turnover was 3.2 billion shares worth P4.5 billion.

"We don't have any good news to digest at the moment and, at the same time, there's caution ahead of the Fed decision on interest rates," said Harry Liu of Summit Securities.

US stocks fell Friday amid receding hopes of a Federal Reserve rate cut this week following stronger-than-expected US inflation data for February. The FOMC meets Tuesday and Wednesday. **AFP**



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BOND TRADING

BAP sets new benchmarks

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE LOCAL BANKING SYSTEM YESTERDAY shifted to a new benchmark for bond trading based on done rates or actual transactions—a new system without leeway for any possible price-fixing, regulators and industry leaders said.

In line with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' memorandum dated Feb. 28 requiring banks to use done rates in marking-to-market valuations, the Bankers Association of the Philippines spearheaded the establishment of the new benchmarks for peso-denominated government securities that will be administered by the association's fixed income exchange unit Philippine Dealing & Exchange Corp. (PDEX), a self-regulating organization.

With the adoption of the new benchmark, National Treasurer Omar Cruz said the banking system was implementing the benchmarks already established by the government's recent bond swaps wherein it weeded out thinly traded tenors by offering new bonds in exchange for the dormant ones.

"It's difficult to manipulate the market with a lot of trades," Cruz said, noting that benchmark two-, three-, five-, six- and seven-year bonds were now being traded at about P1 billion per tenor at the secondary market.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the shift to done rates from the earlier Mart1 benchmarks, which were based solely on best bids, would prevent a repetition of the controversies over bond price-setting.

He earlier confirmed that the BSP had warned some banks in relation to the alleged price-fixing that happened during the height of the unit investment trust fund (UITF) selldown last year, but did not elaborate. Other BSP sources said 24 commercial banks were reprimanded because of that incident wherein some traders were suspected of intervening in MART1 price-setting in order to cushion the assets managed by their banks from sharp devaluations caused by the fall in bond prices.

"What's good is that since these are actual transactions, you're not just looking at one side of the quotes. It will help improve valuations because this is the actual price," BAP executive director Leonilo Coronel said.

He said as the rules were a bit loose and unclear in the past such that those implicated by the BSP in the price-fixing issue might even go scot-free, but under the new regime, he said there was no room for such a scandal to occur again.

Under PDEX, he said price discovery for the secondary trading of bonds would be more transparent.

"The guardian of the benchmark is the (PDEX) so there will be rules that will be followed, sanctions and penalties to be imposed on violators. The benchmarks will have more integrity," Coronel said.

"The MART1 formula will still continue because while the new benchmark is based on done rates, if there's no volume in each benchmark tenor, it will revert to a formula like MART1," Coronel said.

The new marking-to-market benchmarks adopted by the banks starting yesterday were now based on actual done deals in the peso GS (government securities) interbank market. In the absence of done deals, they will be based on the best firm bid.

These new benchmarks are meant to address the BSP's call for improved transparency and reliability of marking-to-market revaluation to promote investor confidence.

Meanwhile, in order to ensure continuity for existing contracts until these expire or mature, to preclude profit and loss discrepancies for transacting parties, as well as preclude disruptions such as hedging ineffectiveness under International Accounting Standard (IAS) 39, the new benchmarks include an equivalent of the old best bids-based methodology under MART1, which the BSP will allow banks to continue using even after the transition, for existing issuances and contracts.

91-day T-bill rate inches up to 2.998%

From page B1

situation where yields are lower than the inflation rate—would not be sustainable and be a disincentive to savings and investments.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz said the increases in treasury bill rates for the 91- and 182-day bills were just within market expectations and reflected trading rates in the secondary market.

However, he said the bids for 364-day bills were all rejected for the second consecutive week as these were "throw-away bids" as the banks sought rates that were way off those prevailing in the secondary market.

Cruz added that there was no appetite for the 364-day bills because there was P1.6 billion worth of bond maturities that the market could easily divert to higher-yielding and more liquid two-year treasury bonds.

During yesterday's auction, the offering for 91-day bills—the rate of which is used by banks as benchmark in pricing loans—was nearly six times oversubscribed. The Treasury not only awarded the original P500 million offering in full, it also accepted additional tenders worth P200 million.

There was likewise a full award of the P1.5-billion offering for the 182-day bills that was nearly four times oversubscribed, while rejected tenders for the 364-day bills amounted to P3.43 billion.

"Short-term yields have bottomed out in the primary market. In the secondary market, yields have crept slightly upward and the downward trend may be temporarily postponed," said the Capital Market Analyst, a publication of the First Metro Investment Corp. and the University of Asia and the Pacific Capital Markets Research Center.

But the publication's bond outlook said that despite the recent global volatility, wild spikes in interest rates were not likely as inflation has eased to a four-year low 2.6 percent.

Improvements in the government's fiscal position, which put fiscal managers in good position to slash borrowings, have also tempered any sharp uptick in short-term peso yields.

Last week, the national government announced a two-month budget deficit of P18.6 billion, which was well within the quarterly deficit ceiling of P45.8 billion.

Foreign chambers push for open skies

From page B1

JFC said.

The group said that in 2006 when open skies took effect for the greater part of the year, about 500,000 passengers arrived at the DMIA.

"(This is) an increase of at least 110 percent from the 225,000 passengers that arrived in 2005," JFC said.

Flights of Asiana Airlines, Air Asia, Hong Kong Airways and Tiger Airways transport increasing numbers of tourists and businessmen from Hong Kong, Korea, Malaysia and Singapore, JFC added.

"These flights would be necessary to develop the Philippines or Luzon as a destination for medical tourism patients and retirees," the group said.

"Several new hotels are being built at Clark to meet the growing requirements of visitors," it added. "The increasing number of airline options also provides opportunities for Filipinos working abroad to return home on flights directly to Central Luzon."

JFC said that since 1993, 25 air services agreements with other countries provide for designated carriers to fly to and from Clark, but these airlines have not taken the opportunity.

"In the absence of (such services) to Clark, the legal fundamentals for carriers to use DMIA outside the protocols of bilateral agreements should continue and be regularized," JFC said.

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of March 19, 2007)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.25	10.25	35,500
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	57	57	56	56	608,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	64.5	64.5	63	63.5	1,814,700
China Banking Corp.	870	870	870	870	4,800
Citystate Savings Bank	20	20	20	20	300
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.52	0.53	0.51	0.51	9,340,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	100	100	99	99	121,600
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	58	58.5	57.5	58	1,737,800
Philippine National Bank	46.5	46.5	46.5	46.5	4,000
Phil. Savings Bank	62	63	62	62.5	2,000
Security Bank Corp.	75	75	74.5	74.5	109,800
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	6.2	6.6	6.2	6.5	153,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	37	37.5	37	37.5	17,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1600	1600	1600	1600	1,070
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.84	1.9	1.84	1.9	8,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	635	635	600	630	19,710
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2090	2090	2090	2090	300
Ivantage Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.48	1.48	1,415,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
PNOC Energy Dev. Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.6	5.6	5,415,000
First Gen Corp.	52.5	52.5	52	52	382,500
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	70	70	69.5	70	564,200
Manila Electric Co. A	69	69	67	67	370,700
Manila Electric Co. B	69	69	67	67.5	1,505,700
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9	9.1	9	9.1	294,000
Petron Corp.	4.3	4.3	4.25	4.25	3,817,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.25	0.28	0.25	0.27	1,360,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.88	1.88	1.88	1.88	18,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.38	1.4	1.38	1.38	636,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	1,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	25.5	25.5	24.75	25	15,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	52.5	52.5	52	52	309,900
Pancake House Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	5,000
RFM Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	2,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	2.55	2.55	2.5	2.5	97,000
San Miguel Corp. A	63	63.5	63	63.5	136,800
San Miguel Corp. B	72	72	71.5	72	82,000
Alliance Tuna Int'l. Inc.	2.28	2.3	2.22	2.22	1,483,000
Universal Robina Corp.	17.5	17.5	17.25	17.5	270,900
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	1.68	1.68	1.62	1.64	9,067,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	4.45	4.55	4.45	4.55	709,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	8.7	8.8	8.7	8.8	2,445,000
Republic Cement Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	72,000
CHEMICALS					
Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4.85	4.85	4.75	4.8	408,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Picop Resources Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.34	9,920,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.013	925,200,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	84,700,000
Ayala Corp.	555	555	540	545	258,360
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	150,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	8	8.1	8	8.1	842,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	6.7	6.8	6.7	6.7	1,321,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.075	0.0775	0.0725	0.075	109,100,000
A. Soriano Corp.	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.3	165,000
APC Group Inc.	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.37	10,230,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	17,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	1.64	1.68	1.62	1.62	24,516,000
Pal Holdings Inc.	3.35	3.35	3.3	3.3	30,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	4.3	4.65	4.3	4.65	4,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	3.35	3.35	3.2	3.3	11,713,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.8	460,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	5	5	5	5	50,000
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	110,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	12.75	12.75	12.5	12.5	1,710,900
Jolliville Holdings Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	2,000
Keppel Holdings	1.98	1.98	1.5	1.5	10,000
Medco Holdings	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.32	150,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
Magnum Holdings Inc.	8.3	8.8	8.1	8.8	1,717,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	1.74	1.94	1.72	1.92	2,478,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.26	0.27	5,750,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	1,420,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.21	0.215	0.205	0.205	8,230,000
SM Investments Corp.	345	350	345	350	42,130
South China Resources Inc.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	40,000
Vivant Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	10,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	150,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	16	16	15.5	15.5	156,716,700
Belle Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.38	1.4	14,563,000
A Brown Company Inc.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	81,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.47	0.48	1,910,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	3.7	3.75	3.7	3.7	262,000
C & P Homes Inc.	2.42	2.5	2.38	2.46	407,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	50,000
Cebu Prop. Vent B	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	200,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	20,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.74	0.74	3,810,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.08	0.0825	0.08	0.0825	38,800,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.64	1.64	1.6	1.6	53,510,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.23	0.29	0.23	0.27	710,000
Gotesco Land Inc.B	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	410,000
Interport Res.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	20,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	5,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.46	0.46	0.45	0.45	1,250,000
City & Land Developers	3	3	3	3	14,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	1,010,000
Megaworld Corp.	3.05	3.05	2.9	2.95	35,702,000
Metro Pacific Inv. Corp.	4.5	4.55	4.5	4.5	30,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.88	0.88	0.82	0.86	8,040,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	20,000
Polar Property Holdings	2.55	2.65	2.55	2.55	254,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	18.5	18.5	18.25	18.5	1,981,100
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.6	0.6	0.59	0.59	4,370,000
SM Development Corp.	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85	10,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	11	11	10.75	10.75	3,456,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	150,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.22	0.225	0.205	0.215	71,810,000
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	24.75	25	24.5	25	120,800
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	2,600,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1350	1350	1345	1345	6,690
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	6.6	6.7	6.6	6.7	113,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2275	2295	2275	2285	162,660
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.245	0.25	0.245	0.25	2,830,000
Diversified Fin. Network	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	20,000
Imperial Res.	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	2,000,000
Ionics Inc.	2.32	2.32	2.32	2.32	4,000
IPVG Corp.	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.8	340,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	200,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.06	0.0625	0.06	0.0625	3,100,000
Transpacific Broadband	2.14	2.14	2.12	2.12	40,000
Philweb Corp.	0.046	0.046	0.044	0.045	34,500,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	4.2	4.2	4.15	4.15	100,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	29	29	29	29	516,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	1.12	1.22	1.12	1.16	1,583,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	2,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	3.6	3.85	3.5	3.7	5,855,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.36	0.36	400,000
Philippine Racing Club	4.15	4.15	4.15	4.15	131,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.94	0.96	0.94	0.96	480,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2.65	2.65	2.55	2.55	301,000
Paxys Inc.	25.5	26	25	26	1,346,900
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	4.95	5	4.95	4.95	215,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	4.95	5.1	4.95	5.1	26,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	23,200,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	10	10.5	9.9	10	6,989,000
Benguet Corp. A	11	11	11	11	7,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.42	2.42	2.42	2.42	7,000
Geograce Res. Phil. Inc.	1.44	1.54	1.44	1.54	89,705,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	1,710,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	2,700,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.027	0.028	0.027	0.028	126,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.033	0.033	0.032	0.033	144,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.019	0.019	0.018	0.018	696,200,000
Philex Mining Corp.	4.3	4.3	4.25	4.3	6,573,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	20	21.25	20	20.75	310,800
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.75	0.78	0.74	0.74	3,330,000
Vulcan Ind'l	1.26	1.3	1.22	1.24	6,270,000
OIL					
Basic Petroleum Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.45	0.47	26,270,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	75,200,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	56,500,000
The Philodrill Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	178,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2	160,000

CURRENCIES

March 19, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.750920	1.000000	48.8190
Japan	Yen	0.006430	0.008563	0.4180
United Kingdom	Pound	1.458361	1.942100	94.8114
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.096140	0.128029	6.2502
Switzerland	Franc	0.622189	0.828569	40.4499
Canada	Dollar	0.638918	0.850847	41.5375
Singapore	Dollar	0.492310	0.655609	32.0062
Australia	Dollar	0.597438	0.795608	38.8408
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.991936	2.652661	129.5003
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.200261	0.266688	13.0194
Brunei	Dollar	0.490701	0.653467	31.9016
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000081	0.000108	0.0053
Thailand	Baht	0.022894	0.030488	1.4884
UAE	Dirham	0.204543	0.272390	13.2978
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.331700	65.0123
Korea	Won	0.000795	0.001059	0.0517
China	Yuan**	0.097068	0.129266	6.3106
Argentina	Peso	0.242624	0.323102	15.7735
Brazil	Real	0.359120	0.478240	23.3472
Denmark	Kroner	0.134282	0.178824	8.7300
India	Rupee	0.017035	0.022686	1.1075
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.214090	0.285103	13.9184
Mexico	New Peso	0.067097	0.089353	4.3621
New Zealand	Dollar	0.524605	0.698617	34.1058
Norway	Kroner	0.122751	0.163468	7.9803
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012369	0.016472	0.8041
South Africa	Rand	0.100752	0.134171	6.5501
Sweden	Kroner	0.107863	0.143641	7.0124
Syria	Pound	0.014466	0.019264	0.9404
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.022688	0.030213	1.4750
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000350	0.000466	0.0227

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY Time—March 16, 2007

* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen. ** Asian time closing rate as of March 16, 2007

SMC seen to have posted 3-10% growth in 2006

Stronger year expected after Coke group sale

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

SAN MIGUEL CORP., THE COUNTRY'S largest food and beverage firm, is expected to book a modest profit growth of between 3 percent and 10.7 percent for 2006, according to analysts polled by the INQUIRER.

This will translate to a net profit of between P9.3 billion and P10 billion, up from P9.03 billion in 2005.

Analysts said sales from San Miguel's domestic beer business as well as from its Australian operations—dairy firm National Foods and juice maker Berri Ltd.—were expected to boost the parent firm's 2006 revenues.

San Miguel's hard liquor unit Ginebra San Miguel Inc., however, incurred higher expenses due to surging prices of molasses and higher excise taxes that pushed liquor prices up.

"We are seeing a reversal for Ginebra this year because sugar prices are trending down. That should be a boost to operating margins. We also see a slight turnaround in liquor volumes as consumers are already used to the price adjustment," ATR Kim Eng senior analyst Leo Venezuela said.

The Coca-Cola Beverage Group—which includes softdrinks and other non-carbonated beverages—also encountered difficulties in lifting sales and revenues due to higher costs of packaging materials, such as glass and plastic bottles.

Sales volume for the Coke group dropped 12 percent in the third quarter from a year earlier because of stiff competition from carbonated and non-carbonated beverage products.

In the third quarter, the Coke group accounted for 15 percent of San Miguel's total revenue and 5 percent of operating income.

The Coca-Cola Beverage Group's carbonated drinks include Coca-Cola, Coca-Cola Light, Sprite, Sprite Light, Royal Tru-Orange, Barq's Root Beer, Schweppes Tonic Water, Pop Cola and Sarsi.

Its products also include Wilkins distilled drinking water, Viva mineral water, First distilled drinking water, and ready-to-drink and powdered juices and tea drinks, such as Eight O'clock, Powerade, Nestea, Magnolia fruit drinks, Junior juice, Funchum Zip juice drinks, Ponkana and Ice Cold Mix.

Last month, San Miguel signed the deal selling its entire 65 percent in Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. (CCBPI) to The Coca-Cola Company (TCCC) for $590 million. This is expected to boost the San Miguel group's financial performance this year.

For 1997, analysts expect the conglomerate to post a profit of P10.9 billion, exclusive of the proceeds from the Coke sale.

"This is because of increased consumer spending and improvement in the group's operating efficiencies arising from the integration of National Foods and Berri," Venezuela said.

However, analysts said San Miguel's debt burden worth P135 billion (both in dollars and pesos) would continue to be a drag on the company.

San Miguel is the third largest corporation in the country in terms of revenue, and the largest food and beverage conglomerate in Southeast Asia. San Miguel is engaged in the production, processing and marketing of alcoholic beverages and soft drinks, food and packaging products in the Philippines, as well as having food and beverage operations in Australia.

Gold Quill Awards Philippines 2007

PLDT, SMART WIN 6 GOLD QUILL AWARDS
Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Smart Communications Inc. received six awards for exemplary communications programs and projects during the Gold Quill Awards Philippines 2007 organized by the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC). The awards were received by the firms' public affairs team led by (from left) PLDT senior publications assistant Jun M. Sambalilo and media division senior manager Horace A. Lavides, PLDT and Smart public affairs head Ramon R. Isberto and PLDT media division team head Sennen F. Lacsamana.

MNTC sees losses due to toll rate cut

By Riza T. Olchondra

MANILA NORTH TOLLWAYS CORP., WHICH HOLDS THE concession for North Luzon Expressway or NLEX, is expected to suffer losses due to lower toll rates this year, company president Jose de Jesus said.

"Our revenues are now about 5 percent lower than year-ago," he said. "For this year we will probably incur losses because of the reduction in toll rates."

MNTC posted a net income of P1.34 billion in the first nine months of 2006 compared to P1.352 billion in the first three quarters of 2005.

Despite the lower income, MNTC slashed toll rates by 11 percent in December 2006, ahead of a Jan 1, 2007 schedule, to benefit holiday travelers. MNTC said currency gains from the peso strengthening at that time would cushion the impact of the toll rate cuts on the company's bottomline.

While noting that their revenues were below target, De Jesus said the income level was enough to sustain operations and pay obligations. He said foreign exchange and inflation rates also cushioned the impact of the reduced toll rates on the firm.

Last year, 140,000 vehicles used NLEX daily. The number rose to 143,000 in the first two months of 2007.

De Jesus attributed the increase partly to the toll rate cut and said "the increase in volume of traffic partly made up for the loss of revenues due to the reduction."

"By end of year we are hoping the number to grow to 149,000. If we grow by 3 percent, we will be okay," he said.

De Jesus expressed optimism that despite the lower income expected from toll fees, the company would benefit from increasing tourism and business activities in Central and Northern Luzon.

Aboitiz power project worth ₱2.8B gets perks

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE BOARD OF INVESTMENTS has approved the granting of tax perks to an Aboitiz firm's P2.86-billion project involving a 19-megawatt hydro power plant in Davao del Sur.

BOI data show that Hedcor Tamugan Inc.'s project was registered with the agency with a pioneer status for its hydro power facility in Baguio District in the province.

Pioneer status, which the venture earned because it uses renewable energy, entitles the company to a tax holiday of up to six years, duty-free importation of capital goods and other fiscal and non-fiscal perks.

Under the 2006 Investment Priorities Plan, the project is qualified for incentives under the heading "Energy-Power Generation," which lists projects that use indigenous and renewable energy resources such as biomass, waste-to-energy conversion, solar, win, geothermal, hydro and tidal wave.

Also, the project is included in the Power Development Plan 2004-2013 as endorsed by the Department of Energy.

The Tamugan plant would create 24 new jobs when fully operational, which was slated for 2010.

"The project, being a run-of-river type will produce clean electricity from a renewable resource without constructing a dam or impounding reservoir, (needing) only a low earth embankment and headpond," the BOI said.

"This means the activity will have a minimal environmental impact. As it would not be importing fuel to generate electricity, it would also save foreign currency that would be needed to buy 169,000 barrels of oil a year," it added.

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NISSAN

Meralco to contest BIR ruling on overpaid tax

Period allowed for tax refund had lapsed, authorities say

By Abigail L. Ho

THE LOPEZ-LED MANILA ELECTRIC Co. will contest before the Court of Tax Appeals a Bureau of Internal Revenue decision disallowing the power distributor from crediting to its 2002 taxable year the income tax it overpaid for 1999, amounting to P977 million.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, the distribution utility explained that the BIR's Large Taxpayers Division should let it carry over the P977 million worth of taxes to 2002

But according to a provision in the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC), tax refund claims may only be applied in the immediately succeeding year.

Meralco vice president and legal office head Gil San Diego explained that the NIRC provision had already been superseded by a newer one, which said that such carry-overs could be credited in succeeding taxable years, without any prescription period or restriction.

In making its decision, the BIR had said that the tax refund claim could only be made within a two-year prescription period.

But San Diego explained that, when the Supreme Court decision regarding Meralco's inclusion of income tax charges in its customers' monthly bills became final in 2003, it was already too late to seek a tax refund for taxable years 2000 or 2001, as the books for both years had already been audited.

Since this was the case, income tax returns for 2000 and 2001 could no longer be altered, he said.

Besides, the two-year period that the BIR cited as one of the reasons for disallowing the crediting of the P977 million in taxes was applicable only to tax refund claims and not in the amendment of income tax returns.

"When the Supreme Court's decision—ordering Meralco to refund to affected customers 16.7 centavos per kilowatt-hour during the billing period February 1994 to April 30, 2003—became final in 2003, it necessarily resulted in overpayment of income taxes estimated at that time at P8.9 billion," he explained.

"Logically, Meralco exercised its option to amend its income tax return for the year 1999, which was then still under audit by the BIR, to reflect an overpayment of income tax for that year in the sum of P977 million.

"This amount was carried over and credited to income tax liabilities for the year 2002," San Diego said.

As it had decided not to allow Meralco to carry over P977 million in overpaid income taxes for 1999, the BIR sent the power firm a preliminary assessment notice for more than P2.2 billion worth of taxes.

Fiscal well-being

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

OH, NO, NOT THIS! OUR MOST TERrifying nightmare is coming true.

For the next elections—as spin-doctors pit Gloriaetta against the man named Band...Wrist Band—they are actually talking about hard issues on the economy.

The next thing you know, they really will count the votes.

For the administration's Team Unity, anyway, the Palace is anchoring the campaign on supposed "economic gains" under this cute administration of Gloriaetta.

As a counter, the Genuine Opposition put out political ads, claiming that the gains were nothing but, well, media "spins." You know, they were just lies!

From where I sit, however, the key to many of our economic problems has always been, from since the time of Kulapo, our "fiscal" well-being.

That is, of course, aside from our physical well-being, which is the biggest factor why we have been mass-producing babies, not to mention the Catholic church.

From the "fiscal" side, other issues tended to resolve (or aggravate) themselves, such as stock market activity, peso exchange rate or interest rates.

Every businessman knows, for instance, that the BIR collected more taxes last year, which allowed the government to borrow less and which, in turn, resulted in lower interest rates, which ultimately was good for business—and the government, too. (For the sake of Tito Sotto, it brought about savings in the government's debt service.)

Unfortunately, in its paid ads hitting the supposed "economic gains" of this cute administration, the GO took a crack at what it called the "tax burden."

The ads noted that the "tax burden" was 14.8 percent of GDP last year, from only 13.9 percent in 2000, which was the last year of the truncated Wrist Band administration.

The GO ought to shoot whoever wrote the ads. They were out and out foolish.

Come on, you can hit this cute administration on many other things, such as the lackadaisical privatization of Napocor, or the foreign trips of SSS boss Corazon de la Paz.

But criticizing Gloriaetta for bringing up the country's "tax effort" (term used by the Palace) is like saying that killing dengue-bearing mosquitoes is bad.

Sure, it's bad—for the mosquitoes. Correct me if I'm right again, but what is bad for the pesky insects is actually good for us.

So the tax take rose from 13.9 to 14.8 percent of GDP? This is actually good. During the time of former President Fidel "Kuya Eddie" Ramos, the ratio was 17 percent.

It meant that, instead of cutting down on spending to narrow the budget deficit, which would be bad for the economy, Kuya Eddie actually collected more taxes.

If the GO had any issue on the "tax burden" or "tax effort" (depending on which side you support), it must be that Gloriaetta needed to raise up the ratio some more.

It's not the other way around, stupid!

That increase in "tax burden" from 13 percent to 14 percent of GDP means that, in 2007, for instance, we can spend P200 billion more on things like infrastructure. You know, classrooms and such!

See, that's the problem when dishonesty takes over election campaigns.

* * *

IN reality, the past two years' gains of the peso against the dollar, as a side effect of our painful fiscal recovery, could be both bad and good.

The strong peso surely was bad for exporters and the families of OFWS. They got a lower amount, in pesos, in exchanging the same amount of dollars.

But the peso's gains also helped business in showing some "book" profits.

For instance, the 2005 financial statements of a local airline (it's name escapes me...really!) showed that it booked some P200 million in "foreign exchange gain."

Without the gain, according to stock market analysts, the airline would have posted a loss of about P123 million that year.

In other words, the airline did not actually make money from operations, despite all the "promo" campaigns for cheap tickets and all that.

The "profit" came from accounting magic, such as booking dollar-denominated airplane lease contracts at lower amounts, thanks to the peso appreciation.

Something like that!

* * *

HERE is the latest about our airport "misery index," starting with the canceled opening of the brand new terminal Naia 3, apparently because it was poorly built, although we should have found out its defects years ago.

The terminal should have been started operations 10 years ago, forgodsakes!

Anyway, the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (the one and only airport in Metro Manila) has only one runway.

Thanks to the "economic upswing" (note to GO: I put it in quotation marks, okay!), one hour waiting time (i.e., delay) for aircraft taxiing is becoming more common.

That's because Naia has only one runway for all the commercial flights, for private small aircraft and everything else, such as "*manananggal*."

One reader complained to me that, just recently, her flight's take-off was delayed by more than two hours.

And so, she asked me if I could say here that the Manila International Airport Authority (or Miaa) should require all those small aircraft to use "municipal airports."

Sorry, ma'am, there is no such thing in Manila.

* * *

IT now seems that Napocor president Cyril del Callar was only anticipating higher power rates, when he recently agreed to sell the people in Mindanao down the river.

A private company called Lanao Hydro Development Corp. (LHDC) wanted to operate the power plant project called "Agus 3" in Lanao.

Now, Napocor signed a "marketing contract" with LHDC to sell the Agus 3 power at only P4.32 per kwh, or roughly double the present rate of only P2.10 per kwh.

Del Callar, in justifying the doubling of the price, said that the contract only reflected the future increase in power rates in Mindanao.

You mean, boss, the power rates are going to double? I thought that Gloriaetta's order is to lower the power rates?

CRUMBLING

A Terracotta warrior replica is displayed to attract shoppers and tourists in Beijing. Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao warned that lending and investment were growing too fast, urging more be done to boost consumer spending. Consumers are reluctant to spend freely because of the crumbling Chinese welfare state, forcing many people to save for basics, such as education and health care. AFP

China urged to pursue sustainable development

BEIJING—CHINA MUST ADOPT A more sustainable model for development "as soon as possible" or risk serious environmental and economic fallout, state media yesterday quoted top officials as saying.

"The overall growth of the Chinese economy is inspiring, but one of the worries is that we have paid too dear an environmental and resources price for such growth," the China Daily newspaper quoted national development chief Ma Kai as telling an economic forum in Beijing on Sunday.

China's voracious economy last year accounted for 15 percent of the energy consumed in the world to produce just 5.5 percent of global output, a situation that senior leaders said imperiled long-term economic prospects, the newspaper reported.

"Serious environmental and resources constraints, irrational industrial structure and development gaps between urban and rural areas, as well as between regions, make it imperative to accelerate change of the growth model in pursuit of sustainable development," Vice Premier Zeng Peiyan told the two-day forum.

Zeng promised more reforms of pricing mechanisms and tax incentives aimed at encouraging energy conservation.

China's economy expanded by a sizzling 10.7 percent last year, fueled by its massive export machine and investment growth.

For years, the ruling Communist Party pursued a growth-first policy, but has recently put addressing the negative effects of that course—horrendous pollution, profligate energy consumption and a widening wealth gap—at the top of its political agenda. *AFP*

Oil prices rise in Asian trade on strong gasoline demand

SINGAPORE—OIL PRICES YESTERDAY turned higher in Asian afternoon trade, finding support on strong gasoline demand in the United States, the world's biggest energy consumer, dealers said.

At 0550 GMT, New York's main oil futures contract, light sweet crude for delivery in April, was up 14 cents to 57.25 dollars a barrel from 57.11 dollars in late US trades Friday.

Brent North Sea crude for May was up 30 cents to 60.60 dollars.

"We have just seen some fairly big falls last week because of worries over the (US) economy...there are still fears about the market but gasoline rebounded and this kept the market strong," said Tony Nunan, energy risk manager for Mitsubishi Corp. in Tokyo. "Gasoline rallied on Friday after Thursday's profit-taking...the momentum is carrying on from Friday."

With winter drawing to a close, participants are increasingly concerned about gasoline supplies ahead of the US peak driving season in May. Over the past few weeks, US gasoline inventories have been on the decline.

Nunan said oil prices would be heading higher on this lead.

Oil eased last week after the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) maintained its daily output target at 25.8 million barrels at its ministerial meeting in Vienna, arguing that global supply levels are healthy.

"That outcome was widely anticipated...if anything it's a little bearish for the market because Opec has not fully implemented the full (previous) output cuts," Nunan said. "The one thing that is saving them is the cold weather in the US, and that gasoline demand is strong."

The 12-nation cartel cut production at its two previous meetings in October and December. In its monthly report, Opec said world oil demand would grow by 1.5 percent in 2007, matching its forecasts in January and February.

Opec's only surprise was its announcement to meet in September, skipping an expected June meeting, analysts said. The cartel said its next meeting would be an ordinary session in Vienna on Sept. 11.

The move suggested "they are in no hurry to raise output again," said Tim Evans, a Citigroup analyst. *AFP*

Asian shares up; China interest rate hike ignored

SINGAPORE—ASIAN SHARES YESTERday rose, shrugging off a Chinese interest rate hike, as a weaker yen encouraged Japanese investors picked up shares in technology firms beaten down during the global sell-off of recent weeks.

The dollar rose more than a yen from the day's low, as gains in the share market eased concerns that volatility in financial markets was prompting investors to cash out of riskier assets and pay off the cheap yen loans that had financed them.

China's weekend interest rate rise knocked Shanghai copper prices down around half a percent on worries of cooling demand.

Nerves jangled when China's main share index opened down more than 2 percent—fueling worries a slide in Chinese stocks could hit other regional markets—but it quickly regained its poise to post strong gains.

"The interest rate hike had been factored in already—the only surprise was timing," said Ernie Hon, strategist at ICEA Securities in Hong Kong. "The market is basically buying on fact."

Shares prices have fallen in a global sell-off in recent weeks, triggered by a plunge in Chinese stocks in late February and signs of slowing growth in the United States.

Gold rose to its highest in more than a week on speculative buying.

Tokyo's Nikkei rose 1.6 percent to close above 17,000 for the first time since March 13, with chip gear maker Advantest Corp. up 2.9 percent and electronics components maker Kyocera Corp. rising 3.2 percent.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia Pacific shares outside Japan was up 0.6 percent by 0610 GMT.

Australia's S&P ASX 200 rose 0.4 percent, as Bank of Queensland's $1.95 billion bid for rival Bendigo Bank raised hopes for more deals in the sector and boosted financial stocks.

Share markets in Hong Kong and Shanghai shrugged off China's 0.27 percentage point interest rate rise—the third hike in less than a year. The Shanghai Composite Index rose 2.5 percent to near a record high and the Hang Seng rose 1 percent.

"The interest rate hike won't have much impact on the stock market—it's not a cooling measure directed against stocks," said Zhang Yanbing, analyst at Zheshang Securities in Shanghai.

Stock indexes in South Korea and Singapore rose more than 1 percent. Taiwan's benchmark finished up 0.2 percent.

The dollar bought around 117.30 yen at 0610 GMT, having risen as high as 117.45, well above the day's low of 116.25 yen. The euro traded around 156.05 yen.

Gains for the yen in recent weeks had been fueled by a flight from risk that saw investors unwind so-called carry trades, which use low-yielding currencies like the yen as a cheap source of funds to buy higher-yielding assets.

"It's the speculators who are making the market very volatile," said a trader at Japanese trust bank. "They had no more reason to buy yen beyond the morning high, and they flipped positions back to sell yen to make money in a thin market."

Gold traded around $655.10 an ounce, after rising as high as $655.70. The precious metal had hit a six-week low of $632.30 on March 6, when tumbling stock prices and a rising yen had forced risk-averse investors to sell gold to cover losses.

The benchmark 10-year Japanese government bond yield was unchanged at 1.575 percent. *Reuters*

Chinese firm says pricey nickel may cause crash

SHANGHAI—CHIINA'S TOP NICKEL producer Jinchuan Group Ltd. warned that oversupply could cause a crash in nickel prices in the next few years as "crazy" current prices encourage blind investment in nickel mines.

International nickel prices touched $48,500 a ton on Friday, their fifth record high in as many days.

"Such crazy gains in nickel prices have spurred irrational investments in the nickel industry," Jinchuan said in a statement.

"The speedy development in nickel mines will lead to a rapid rise in supply when the projects begin commercial production in the next few years." *Reuters*

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

NOTICE OF DISPOSITION

The **NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY** is inviting offers to purchase by way of sealed bids the following commercial properties on an ***"As Is – Where Is"*** basis, on **FIRST TENDER:**

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	BASE PRICE/ SQ. METER
01-045	45 commercial lots, 73 sqm. to 297 sqm	Ph. XI, Bagong Silang Caloocan City	P3,520/sqm to P3,600/sqm

The following items are now qualified for **NEGOTIATED SALE:**

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	BASE PRICE/ SQ. METER
01-04	4 commercial lots, 241 sqm. to 470 sqm.	Ph. X, Pkg. 6, Bagong Silang, Caloocan City	P2,400/sqm.
05-032	28 commercial lots 74 sqm to 324 sqm	Mayon Vista Ligao City, Albay	P1,600/sqm to P1,785/sqm
033	1 commercial lot 6,032 sqm	Sea Breeze Homes Brgy Sip-Ac, Sorsogon City	P800/sqm
034-053	20 commercial lots 351 sqm to 496 sqm.	NHA Teachers' Vill. Brgy Cabaluay Zamboanga City	P1,304.55/sqm P1,400/sqm

All properties are covered with individual titles and the repayment period is for a maximum of ten (10) years at an interest rate of 18% per annum.

For those who will participate in the public bidding, BIDDING MATERIALS may be secured for a non-refundable fee of PhP200.00 from the Commercial & Industrial Bids and Awards Committee (COINBAC), c/o CIED, 2nd Floor, NHA Building, Elliptical Road, Q.C. For inquiry, please call Ms. Evelyn V. Ramos at the ff. tel. nos.: 922-3002, 928-4561 loc. 262-263.

	ACTIVITY	SCHEDULE	VENUE
A.	Submission of Pre-qualification Requirements	March 19 to 26, '07 office hours	CIED, 2nd Floor NHA Main Bldg, Q.C.
B.	Pre-Bid Conference	March 22, '07 10:00 am	Operations Center 3rd Floor, NHA Main Bldg.
C.	Submission of Sealed Bids	March 28, '07 9:00 am to 12 nn	Operations Center
D.	Opening of Bids	March 28, '07 1:30 pm	Operations Center

Letters of Intent for items for negotiated sale may be secured from CIED or from the following Project Offices:

PROJECT	CONTACT PERSON	OFFICE/TEL NOS.
Bicol Projects	Engr. Alberto Perfecto Project Manager	2nd Floor, Quillin Bldg., Ligao City, Albay 052-4852963, 052-4852955
Zamboanga Project.	Doris A. Siao OIC	Nationwide Appliance Center, Inc. Bldg. Veterans Avenue, Zamboanga City
Bagong Silang Project	Engr. Ramon Reside Project Manager	NHA Project Office, Lot 7, Block 9 Phase I, Area I, Bagong Silang, Cal. City

The NHA reserves the right to reject any or all bid offers and applications for negotiated sale, or any part thereof or to waive any required formalities and accept offers/applications most advantageous to the interest of NHA.

(Sgd.) **FROILAN R. KAMPITAN**
Chairperson, COINBAC
Assistant General Manager

(PDI – March 17 & 20, 2007)

More Classified Ads

Department of Education – PBAC **Page A18**
Department of Agrarian Reform **Page A19**
Poro Point Management Corporation **Page A12**
City Government of Zamboanga **Page A13**
Supreme Court of the Philippines – Judicial and Bar Council **Page A20**

OBITUARIES

"Our Dearest Taoy"

YOLANDA VERA CRUZ SEMILLA

who peacefully joined ur Creator on the 17th of March 2007 at the age of 71.

Her parents **Valentin & Generosa** (†); her brothers & sisters: **Edgardo** (†), **Lilia, Valentin Jr. Wilfredo, Danilo, Zenaida & Romeo** (†); her sisters & brothers in law: **Teodora** (†), **Vince Dube, Eladia, Angelita, Jaime Canatoy** (†), & **Elsie**; nephews & nieces, grandchildren, relatives & friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the La Funeraria Paz-Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 9:00 a.m. Mass on March 21, 2007.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
ADVANCED WORLD SYSTEMS, INC. 5/F Citibank-Frabelle Bldg., Madrigal Business Park, Alabang-Zapote Rd., Muntinlupa City	Yuka Watanabe	Japanese Language Consultant
FASTEM CONSTRUCTION INC. Suite 3503 Antel Global Corporate Center, # 3 Dona Julia Vargas Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Youngwha Kim	Vice President
PALAWAN AQUATIC MARINE FISHING & TRADING CORP. 2F Carmel Suite 15, Chronicle St., West Triangle, Quezon City	Huang-Wei Tang	President
K-Y & II INC. Unit 202, Alen Condo, 92 Gil Puyat Ave., Pasay City	Hyoungmog Kim	Advertising Manager
FRANCIS GARCIA ELITE MODELLING AGENCY CO. Unit 3206 Cityland Tower I, Vito Cruz, Malate, Manila	Amir Musa Huseynzade	Modelling Consultant
PHILIPPINE SKY TOP TRAVEL & TOURS CORP. 303 Ermita Center Bldg., R. Blvd., 1350 Brgy 659 Zone 71, Ermita, Manila	Beom Rae Noh	Tourist Guide
MICROCHIP TECHNOLOGY (PHILIPPINES) CORPORATION Unit 113 Tycoon Center, Pearl Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Douglas Le Roy Chaffee	Managing Director of Test Engineering
WHITEHOUSE 'K2 CORPORATION 621 Remedios St., Malate, Manila	Young Aee Kwon	President

If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

The DOLE conducts free seminar on Labor-Human Relations and Productivity. For more information, please call 339-2013 & 303-5920.

(PDI–March 20, 2007)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Room 507-508, 5th Floor Mabini Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines
Website: http://www.deped.gov.ph; e-mail: deped_procurementservice@yahoo.com.ph
Direct Line: 636-65-43 / Telefax: 636-65-42, 633-93-43 Trunk Line: 632-13-61 Locals: 2085/2115

DepED
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The DepED-Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites eligible bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of catering services for the event indicated below:

Item No.	Description of Event Date Needed End-User	No. of Pax (Estimate only)	Location/ Within the Area of:	Approved Budget of the Contract (ABC) (in pesos)	Bid Submission Deadline/ Opening of Bids
1	Palarong Pambansa 2007 April 22-28, 2007 Task Force on School Sports	900 pax	Koronadal City	2,178,000.00	April 3, 2007 2:00 PM Bulwagan ng Karunungan Ground Flr., Rizal Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City

Bids received that exceed the ABC for the item shall be rejected. Bids in excess of Php220.00/pax/day shall also be rejected. Bidders may submit bids before April 3, 2007 during office hours to the BAC through the BAC Secretariat at the address indicated in the next paragraph. A pre-bid conference is scheduled March 22, 2007, 10:00 A.M. at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan.

The Bidding Documents shall be available at the BAC Secretariat, Procurement Service, Room 508, 5th Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, starting on March 20, 2007 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php1,000.00 in cash to the DepED Cashier.

Bidding shall be conducted in accordance with procedures under R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Information is also available at **http//www.deped.gov.ph** or **www.procurementservice.org** or call DepED-PS at telephone nos. 636-65-43; 636-65-42 or fax no. 633-93-43.

DepED-BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, or declare failure of bidding at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected parties.

(Sgd.) **RAMON C. BACANI**
Undersecretary and BAC Chairperson

(PDI–March 20, 2007)

IMMEDIATE HIRING

- MARKETING MANAGER
- EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
- TRAINOR
- MARKETING STAFF
- TECHNICAL & NON-TECHNICAL CUSTOMER SERVICE
- SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST
- SALES LADY

Interested applicants may apply at:

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16-C Petron Megaplaza, 358 Senator Gil Puyat, Makati City
Tel. No. 887-7888 Fax. No. 887-7880
OR E-mail your resumé with 2x2 picture at hug_info@yahoo.com

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MATERIAL / PURCHASING DEPARTMENT MANAGER

Has at least 5 years extensive work experience in purchasing, warehousing inventory and quality control of incoming materials in Electronics Company, preferably fan motor. He/she should have extensive knowledge on the conceptualization, designing, implementing and testing of different models of Fan Motors as prescribed by our customers. Accordingly, the candidate is expected to know very well all the processes involving the production of a Fan Motor. The incumbent must also speak, read and write Nihongo.

Interested applicants may send their Resume with 2x2 picture and other credentials to:

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Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
MAYNILA, PILIPINAS

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project.

Qty	Items	Approved Budget for the Contract	Delivery Schedule
2273 reels	Unprinted Pre-gummed Banderoles for 100-note bundles per BSP sample White paper – 90 gsm. standard width – 40 mm Packaging – 1 reel of 3,000 banderoles (167 x 40 mm/banderole) Shelf life – at least 1 year from date of delivery	P 6,023,450.00	1,137 reels – 2nd week of May 2007 1,136 reels – 1st week of July 2007
534 reels	Unprinted Pre-gummed Banderoles for 1000-note packets per BSP sample White Paper – 90 gsm, standard width – 60 mm Packaging – 1 reel of 1,500 banderoles (378 x 60 mm/banderole Shelf-life – at least 1 year from date of delivery	P1, 842,300.00	267 reels – 2nd week of May 2007 267 reels – 1st week of July 2007

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar project within the last five (5) years (Y2002 to present) with an amount of at least 50% of the Approved Budget for the Contract. the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

	Activities	Schedule
1.	Issuance of Bid Documents	20 March 2007 – 29 March 2007
2.	Pre-Bid Conference	30 March 2007 ; 10:30 A.M.
3.	Opening of Bids	17 April 2007 ; 2:00 P.M.
4.	Bid Evaluation	These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. 9184 dated 10 January 2003
5.	Post-Qualification	
6.	Notice of Award	

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Item 1- P3,000.00 and Item 2 – P 900.00 to the BSP cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.**
Chairman

(PDI – March 20, 2007)

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OBITUARIES

VICTOR VIRI BUENCAMINO, MD

Former Medical Director of Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital
Former Member of the Philippine Board of Medical Examiners

Peacefully joined his Creator
on March 18, 2007 at the age of 81.

*He is survived by his wife **Alice**; children **Lucy & Bob, Terence, Julie & Alvis, Luis Victor, Cris & Joe**; grandchildren **Calista, Diego & Ian**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.*

His body lies in state at the family residence in San Jose, San Miguel, Bulacan.

Interment will be at San Miguel Memorial Park, Sta Rita Bata, San Miguel, Bulacan on March 22, 2007 after the 1:00 p.m. Mass

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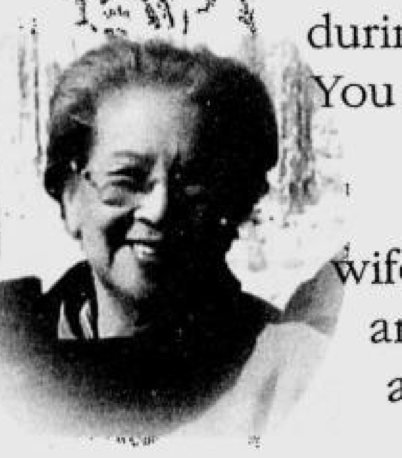
"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

Message of Thanks



We thank you
who comforted us
during our time of grief.
You helped us embrace
the memory of
Julieta,
wife, mother and lola,
and helped us bear
a loss that makes
words fail.

From the family of
Julieta Cano Pangalangan
July 5, 1928-February 9, 2007

Clark airport starts P150-M expansion

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE P150-MILLION EXPANSION OF THE Diosdado Macapagal International Airport, also known as Clark International Airport, is due to begin this summer.

To ensure the project's smooth implementation, Clark International Airport Corp. is seeking an exemption from the ban on government construction projects imposed by the Commission on Elections during the election period.

CIAC president and CEO Victor Jose Luciano said its parent agency, the Bases Conversion Development Authority, had written Comelec regarding the application for the project's exemption from the ban.

Of the total budget, P68 million will be used to improve the check-in, pre-departure and passenger greeters areas at the passenger terminal 1. The remaining P82 million will be used to upgrade X-ray machines, information screens and other airport equipment.

The election period covers 45 days before and 45 days after the elections on May 14, 2007. This means the ban will end on June 13.

In the meantime, the civil works component of the project is again being auctioned off. The first bidding was declared a failure since the winner in the first bidding held on Jan. 27 was not able to meet certain requirements of CIAC.

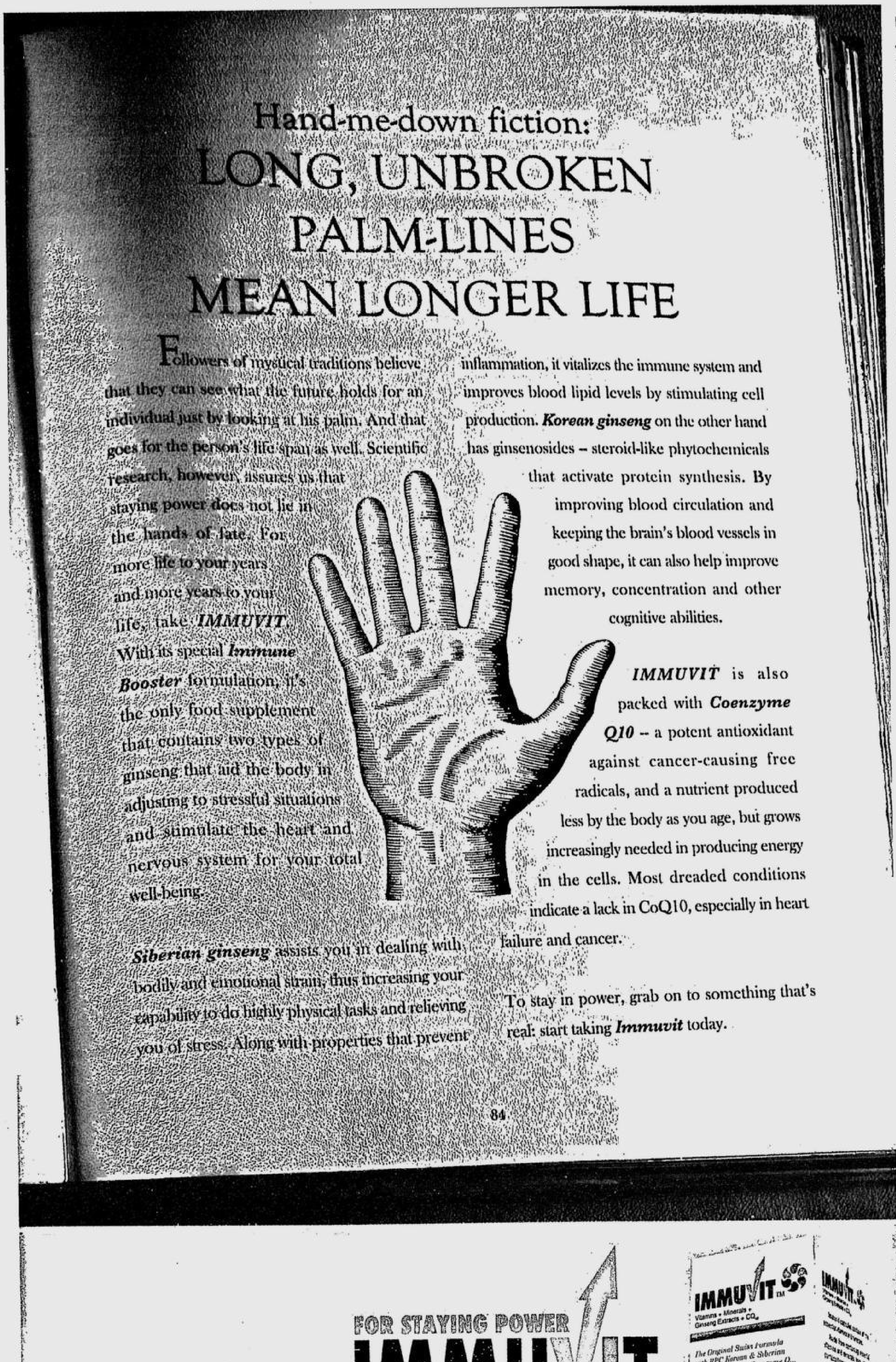
Luciano said at least six groups had expressed interest to participate in the bidding.

The agency intends to start construction next month for completion in late October or early November.

The terminal expansion would enable the DMIA to accommodate two million passengers from its current capacity of one million passengers, Luciano said.

As of 2006, the total passenger arrivals at DMIA reached 480,000 from zero in 2002. About 470,867 were international guests (up 110 percent from 224,497 in 2005), while 17,889 were domestic passengers (up 149 percent from 7,816 in 2005).

Luciano attributed the increase to the entry of low cost carriers in Clark.



Hand-me-down fiction:
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Followers of mystical traditions believe that they can see what the future holds for an individual just by looking at his palm. And that goes for the person's life span as well. Scientific research, however, assures us that staying power does not lie in the hands of fate. For more life to your years and more years to your life, take *IMMUVIT*. With its special *Immune Booster* formulation, it's the only food supplement that contains two types of ginseng that aid the body in adjusting to stressful situations and stimulate the heart and nervous system for your total well-being.

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Forum Energy starts repair of well in Cebu

By Abigail L. Ho

BRITISH-CANADIAN JOINT VENTURE Forum Energy Plc has started the "workover" of the Forum-2X well in Barangay Maya, Cebu, following the refurbishment of the company's Hycalog Drilling Rig.

A workover refers to the stimulation or repair of an existing production well to restore, prolong or enhance its ability to produce hydrocarbons.

In a statement posted on the company's official website, Forum said the well was first drilled in 2003 to a total depth of 1,732 feet.

"The well encountered multiple hydrocarbon bearing zones, including a 34-foot net sandstone layer from the gross interval of 1,570-1,610 feet. A flow rate of 217,000 standard cubic feet of gas per day was achieved at that time," the company said.

In the area of oil and gas exploration this year, the Department of Energy said it was expecting some $116 million in new investments from five petroleum service contractors, including Forum.

This amount, said Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla, would be used for the drilling of at least six exploration wells in Palawan, Cebu, Ragay Gulf in Quezon, Mindoro and the East Visayan Basin.

"A number of drilling activities will be taking place within the year for the extraction of already proven reserves that were capped in the '70s and '80s when they were not yet commercially viable, but which have become commercially viable now," he said.

Service Contract 40 operator Forum Energy Philippines Corp., the local arm of the British-Canadian joint venture, will be conducting one well testing, worth around $375,000, within its North Cebu contract area, after conducting its first well testing in 2003.

The Netherlands' Premier Oil, operator of SC 43, will invest $3 million to drill one exploration well within the first quarter of the year.

Between June and July, Malaysia's Petronas Carigali Overseas Sdn Bhd will also drill an exploration well in offshore Mindoro. The project is worth at least $23 million.

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Website: www.inquirer.net/lifestyle

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

sms feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

IN THIS ISSUE

▨ Prepare for sizzling days ahead /C2

DESIGNER WHEY
America's #1 Protein Shake
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✓Develops Stronger Bones
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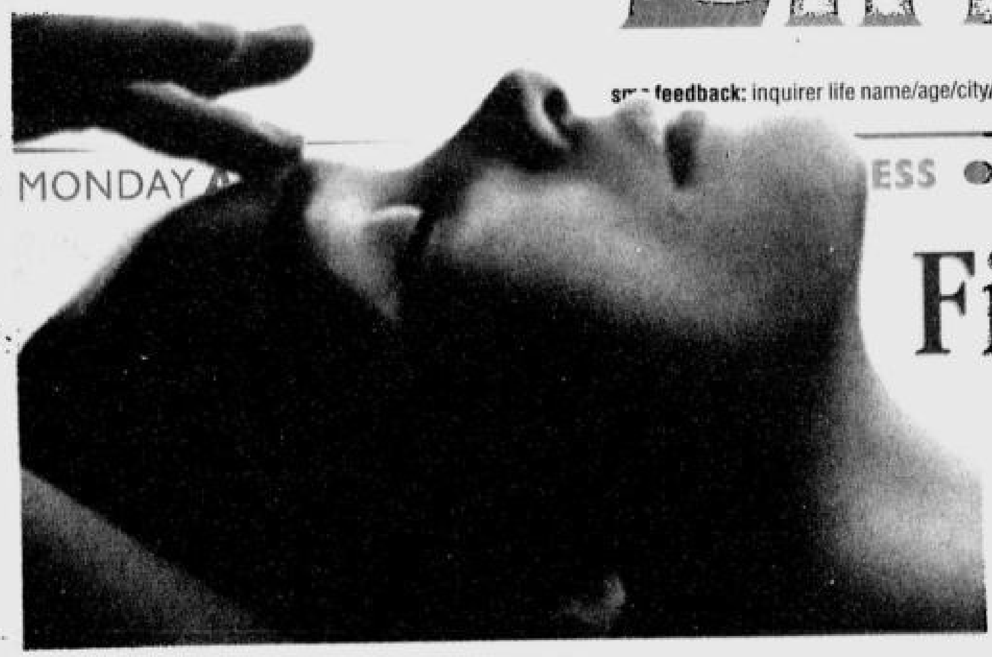
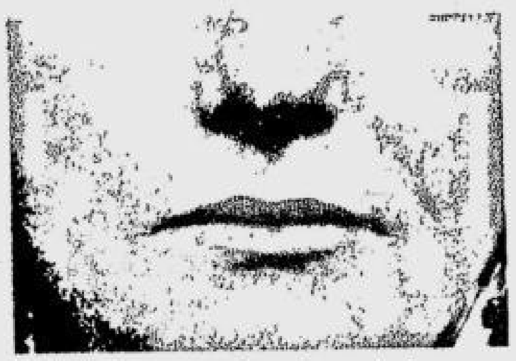
MONDAY … ESS ● WEDNESDAY 2BU ● THURSDAY FOOD ● FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY



IT PAYS to start early with the right, noninvasive facial procedure.

Firm but gentle: Young skin sans surgery



SPLIT-FACE comparison after a single ReFirme session shows untreated left cheek and treated right cheek.

Dermatologist did a series of local clinical trials for ReFirme before making it available here

By Alex Y. Vergara

BEAUTY JUNKIES MAY HAVE a new ally in their endless and sometimes futile search for anything that can delay aging.

After almost a year of clinical trials involving Filipino subjects, Facial Care Center in Makati has introduced ReFirme.

"ReFirme has been approved by the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) in the United States," says Dr. Maria Isabelita Joya, at dermatologist at Facial Care. "[But] I still did a series of clinical trials here to see the results for myself. I'm quite satisfied."

The procedure combines radio frequency and infrared to stimulate collagen production deep under the skin to tighten sagging facial and neck muscles, as well as reduce the appearance of fine lines.

Like Thermage and Titan, ReFirme is a nonsurgical and nonablative (does not involve the removal of tissue) form of facelift. It does not wound or injure the topmost layer of the skin.

Combination

ReFirme combines the face-lifting properties of both Thermage (radio frequency) and Titan (infrared).

But, unlike procedures that often require sedation of the client, unless she has a high tolerance for pain, ReFirme is virtually painless.

Joya does not even need to apply topical anaesthesia on a person's face before performing the procedure. It all boils down to the type of "frequency" used.

"Radio frequencies produced by Thermage are monopolar," says Joya, "while those produced by ReFirme are bipolar."

Monopolar frequencies are stronger and therefore more painful. Joya adds that research has shown that Thermage has an unwanted side effect.

"Your face becomes tighter, but it is likely to look shrunken because you tend to lose fat in a monopolar process," she explains. "The effect may be less dramatic when you undergo a bipolar procedure like ReFirme, but you're assured that it won't reach a point where you'd lose fat."

ReFirme's infrared and radio frequencies penetrate and zero in on the skin's deeper levels to induce cells responsible for producing collagen and elastin. Infrared, in particular, is known to enhance collagen synthesis, says Joya.

Collagen and elastin are the building blocks of healthy skin and taut facial muscles. Unfortunately, as one ages, the body produces the two protein byproducts at a much slower rate.

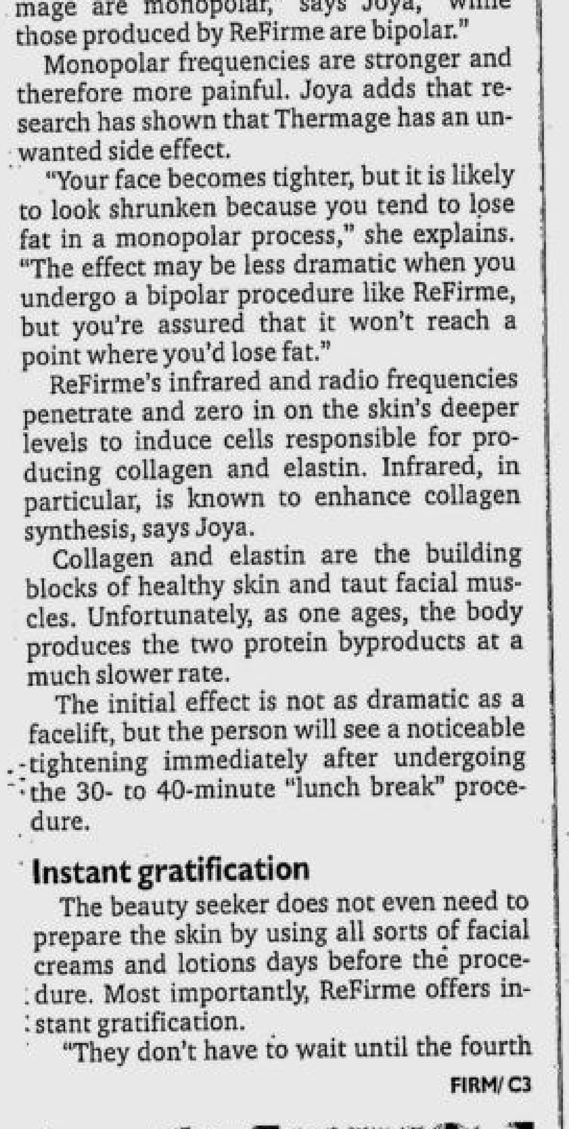
The initial effect is not as dramatic as a facelift, but the person will see a noticeable tightening immediately after undergoing the 30- to 40-minute "lunch break" procedure.

Instant gratification

The beauty seeker does not even need to prepare the skin by using all sorts of facial creams and lotions days before the procedure. Most importantly, ReFirme offers instant gratification.

"They don't have to wait until the fourth

FIRM/ C3



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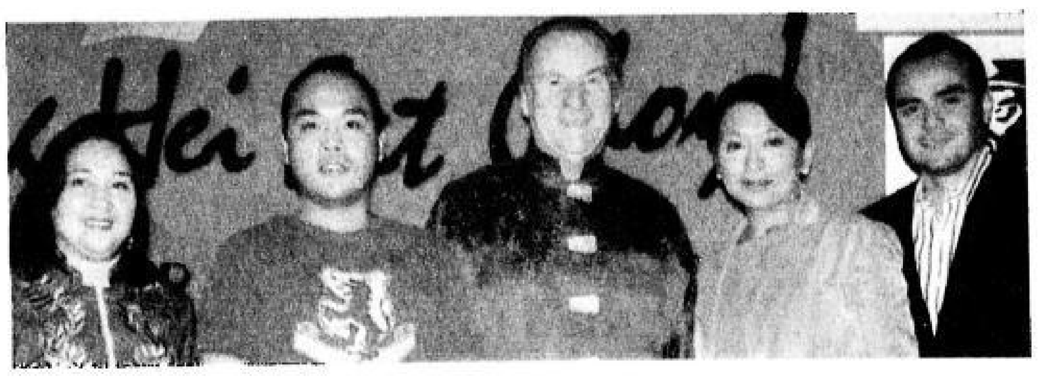
LION and dragon eye-dotting ceremonies with Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, Rep. Teddyboy Locsin, and Feng Shui master Joseph Chau



MOËT Hennessy's Olga Azarcon, raffle winner Rudholf Gloriaga, Mandarin Oriental Manila's popular general manager Helmut Gaisberger and emcees Ces Drilon and David Celdran

CITIBANK Corp.'s country business manager for global consumer group Mark Jones and wife Jennie

DORIS and Annelice Serban of the Embassy of Romania

JOURNALIST Jullie Yap Daza, Makati First Lady Dr. Elenita Binay, with Tina Colayco, UP College of Fine Arts dean and wife of Mandarin Hotel Inc. chair

Pink is the color of life

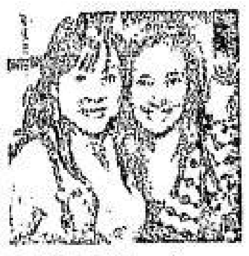
WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

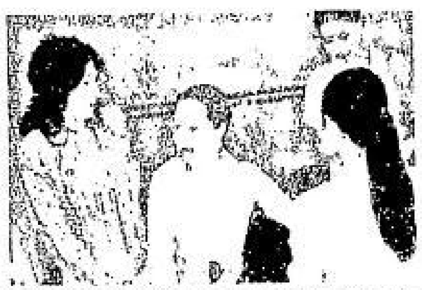
MERCEDES-BENZ marketing manager Apple Ting (left) and CATS Motors Andros Villaraza with Singapore Airline's assets Rita Dy and Joanne Francisco

MERCEDES-BENZ WOMEN: Letlet Cocabo, Liz Almoro, Ella V. and Nancy Tan



BENZ E-Class for glamorous Chian Callaghan Levy and Mia Nolasco Cuenca

NIÑA Almoro with Sheryl Escueta and Yna David



HONORARY Monaco consul Fortune Ledesma and Frannie Aguinaldo Jacinto wait to have a hand massage and make-over during the Mercedes-Benz Women's Day

EMY Arcilla with Sheila Carlos and CATS Motors Grace Ang

PINK FOR LIFE COMMITTEE MEMBERS. Standing: Mons Tantoco, Sigalit Djemal, Joy Wassmer, and Mario Katigbak; Seated: Dr. Diana Cua-Balcells, Irene Martel-Francisco, and Vicky Belo

MASTER Indian chef Virender Kumar prepares an exotic cuisine at Circles Event Café

ALL IS SET, *PALANGGAS*, FOR THIS Thursday's first super major fundraising event for breast cancer treatment, no less.

The event is a project of that ultra chic magazine, Philippine Tatler, and its fantastic partners Makati Shangri-La, Bulgari, Palmers, Belo Medical Group, Sigalit's Kitchen and the International Bazaar Foundation.

Aptly called "Pink for Life," cocktails will be held at the Rizal Ballroom of the Makati Shangri-La, *natch*.

"The aim of the fundraiser is to provide much needed chemotherapy treatment for those patients with Stage 1 and 2 breast cancer. The beneficiary of the Pink for Life event is Bosom Buddies Inc., a nonprofit organization registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Discounted chemotherapy medication will be made available though the coordination and supervision of Dr. **Diana Cua-Balcells**, founder of Bosom Buddies Inc.," explained Harrison Plaza's **Irene Martel Francisco**, Tatler's mega publisher.

Their goal is to raise some P3 million from corporate and individual donors who care. Each invitee to the "Pink for Life" event will be asked a minimum donation of P1,000. *Naturellement*, more generous donations will definitely be most welcome, *palanggas*.

It will absolutely be an evening of fun and glamour. Great musical entertainment will be provided by **Sitti**, **May Bayot** and **Cocoy Puyat**. Proceeds of a unique auction are going, of course, to this effort to save lives.

Please, please participate in this very worthy endeavor! Donations can be sent to The Philippine Tatler office, tel. 8103352 or 814-0771. Look for **Mario Jose** if you want your donation collected. You can also give on the day itself at the ballroom foyer.

The "Pink for Life" is expected to help over 250 women and their loved ones. Surely, that is reason enough to celebrate, *palanggas*.

Annual tradition

As always, when Chinese New Year arrives, there is only one place to be—the elegant Mandarin Oriental, Manila, dahlings. The hotel's grand lunar welcome of the Year of the Fire Pig was under the direction of international geomancer **Joseph Chau**.

Now on its 11th year, the event has undoubtedly become a tradition for Cosmo Manille's social set, diplomatic pack and hotshots from the Filipino-Chinese community. It is considered by many as the biggest Chinese New Year celebration outside of Binondo, *palanggas*.

The fun started with the piggy bank auspicious ritual. Everyone received his/her first lucky coin for the year from Master Chau. Makati's dynamic mayor **Jejomar Binay** and Mandarin Oriental's general manager, super popular **Helmut Gaisberger** headed the prosperity parade on a pig-themed float.

They were followed by *lechon* from Ping-Ping's Lechon and the Ling Nam Athletic Association's lion dancers. A convoy of sleek and luxurious models of BMW cars carried VIPs through the route mapped out by Master Chau, dahlings.

The prominent personalities who participated in the parade and the cool eye-dotting ceremonies included Mandarin Oriental Manila's first lady, **Vina Gaisberger**; Saudi Arabian Ambassador **Mohammed Ameen Wali**; philanthropist **Rosemarie Arenas**; Moët-Hennessy Asia-Pacific hotshot country representative, cyber smart **Olga Azarcon**; and Prestige Cars BMW's marketing head, **Vic Delarmente**.

A night market at the hotel's car park kept invitees busy trying to get good bargains.

The grand welcome was held in collaboration with, among others, Citigold, Citibank, Asia Miles and Enchanted Kingdom, as well as the Makati government, *natch*.

Diversity

During our country's first ever "Women's Day," superbly hosted by Mercedes-Benz, four hot personalities were showcased for their choice of "cars and preference in scents."

The special day, *palanggas*, showed us the diversity of women. Mercedes-Benz hot marketing manager **Apple Ting** and Marionnaud Philippines' country operations manager **Paolo Abad** did a joint presentation on what women liked in terms of cars and scents.

Among the fashionably dressed women present were **Glo Garcia**, **Maripi Menendez**, **Lani Chua**; Marie Claire's **Myrza Sison**, JetSet Magazine's **Liza Ilarde**, **Carla Sibal** , **Sari Yap** of Lifestyle Asia, gourmand **Lucille Carlo Locsin**, **Bing Cebrero Buck**, and **Helen Ong**.

Four of CATS Motors Mercedes-Benz models, paired with four personality types, had the women oohing and sighing: B-Class for the "practical woman," E-Class for the "executive career woman," CLS-Class for the "trendy fashionista," and M-Class for the "adventurous woman."

It is no wonder so many of our modern women are driving sleek Benz cars, dahlings.

Marionnaud SM Mall of Asia thrilled the women with four exciting scents from Bulgari: Omnia Amethyste for the "career woman," CK One Electric for the "adventurous woman," Salvatore Ferragamo Incanto Charms for the "practical woman," and Burberry London for the "fashionista."

The women were later treated to Gourmet Foods' fresh salad bar and Cascada's yummy cuisine. They dashed back to work with goodies from Mercedes-Benz, Marionnaud fluffy teddy bear and Gourmet Foods, *natch*!

Spicy

If you dig Indian cuisine, like I do, well *palanggas*, drop by Makati Shangri-La's delightful Circles Event Café on or before March 31 for lunch or dinner.

The best of Indian food will be done by grand chef **Virender Kumar**. He prepares a sophisticated spread of Indian flavors through a combination of spices and imported ingredients, dahlings.

It includes a selection of Tandoori chicken baked in a clay pot to lock in the rich flavors, barbecued herbed *lapu-lapu*, yummy lamb casserole, and a chicken sandwich layered with vegetables (I had the chicken and veggies without the bread) plus loads of other exotic dishes, *palanggas*.

For reservations, call 8400884 or 8138888 ext. 7588/7599.

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

Beat the summer heat

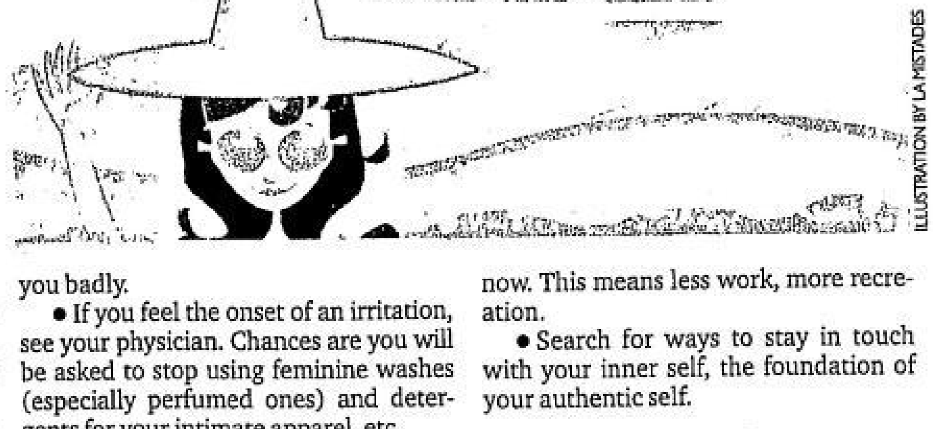


ILLUSTRATION BY LA MISTADES

SUMMER IS UPON US. AND ITS intensity has never been felt more strongly than now. With the thinning of the Earth's ozone layer, more protection against ultraviolet rays is needed.

Too hot for comfort

With temperatures rising, more health complications, especially involving the skin, may be expected and comfort is threatened. When it is too hot for comfort, what measures should you take?

Avoid at all cost

- Sunbathing, swimming at high noon. The sun is at its highest point at this time. This means its rays are at their most damaging.
- Starvation and crash diets just to get into your swimsuits. These can hurt your health. Diet slowly, steadily.
- Alcoholic beverages when the heat is at its worst. Drinking will make your inner temperature rise as well. Your blood pressure may also be at risk.
- Being under the sun without protection. Use a sunblock with SPF (Sun Protection Factor) of at least 30.
- Looking directly at the sun with your bare eyes. Wear sunglasses with a UV (ultra-violet) shield.
- Squinting when the sun is glaring. This causes wrinkles.
- Exposing children (infants to 8 years old) directly under the sun 11 a.m.-3p.m. They are too tender to defend themselves against the sun's harmful rays.

Do at all times

- Drink a glass of clean, purified water every hour even if you are not thirsty.
- Have in your possession a hat, umbrella, sunglasses, fan. You never know when you need them.
- Moisturize your face twice a day to prevent dryness.
- Re-apply sunblock every 2-3 hours. If you are swimming, make sure you reapply religiously as it wears off fast or use a waterproof sunblock. This way, you can enjoy summer activities without fussing over reapplication of sunblock.
- Eat light meals frequently to keep your blood sugar levels stable. Those on diets should be happy about this. The best diet plan is to eat small portions frequently.
- Snack on high-water fruits and vegetables like watermelons, melons, oranges, turnips (*singkamas*). This ought to hydrate you regularly.
- Wear light-colored clothes—white and pastel. White deflects the sunlight so it does not absorb heat as fast as dark colors do.
- Ladies, use skirts as often as you can. Keeping your intimate parts free from constriction (caused by tight jeans, etc.) can ensure comfort and hygiene, preventing bacterial/fungal infections. The heat at this time can affect you badly.
- If you feel the onset of an irritation, see your physician. Chances are you will be asked to stop using feminine washes (especially perfumed ones) and detergents for your intimate apparel, etc.
- Wear loose, comfortable clothing. Going bra-less is not only good for aerating your body but also ensuring unrestricted blood circulation in the breast area.
- Embark on a light exercise regimen. If you have more time in your hands, you have no excuse not to engage in some form of activity.
- Take your multi-vitamin/mineral supplement daily. Vitamin supplements that are kind to the skin are A and C. Add an extra dosage for a healthy complexion.
- Pamper yourself whenever possible. Summer slips into relax mode now, a signal to slow down.
- Recharging should take priority now. This means less work, more recreation.
- Search for ways to stay in touch with your inner self, the foundation of your authentic self.

Summer revive soak

In a tub of cool water, throw in some ice cubes and mix one cup of a citrus concoction—calamansi, lemon, orange, etc. This will revive your senses and exfoliate your skin.

You can have fun under the summer sun but exercise caution.

Moonlight walk

If you walk in the moonlight, you are basking in the sun in a roundabout way. Why? Because the moon reflects the sun. Make the moon your friend. Walk, meditate and be one with the silence of the night. This way, you can be one with your own silence.

Love and light!

INNER AWARENESS
Jaime Licauco

'The Secret' that is no secret

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT the phenomenal book "The Secret" by Rhonda Byrne and its accompanying DVD?

According to Newsweek's Jerry Adler, it "could be the fastest-selling book of its kind in the history of publishing with 1.75 million copies projected to be in print by March 2, just over three months since it came out, plus 1.5 million DVDs sold."

Several friends passed on to me copies of the DVD a few weeks ago. Only recently did I receive the book from Annie Rañola, a young businesswoman and graduate of my courses. I didn't know the book was already in local bookstores.

Intriguing

My curiosity was aroused because of the very enticing and intriguing promo write-up on the jacket of the DVD:

"The Secret," it says, "has existed throughout the history of humankind. It has been discovered, coveted, suppressed, hidden, lost and recovered. It has been hunted down, stolen and bought for vast sums of money. Now, for the first time in history, 'The Secret' is being revealed to the world.

"A number of exceptional men and women discovered 'The Secret,' and went to become known as the greatest people who ever lived. Among them: Plato, Leonardo, Galileo, Napoleon, Hugo, Beethoven, Lincoln, Edison, Einstein and Carnegie, to name a few.

"'The Secret' reveals how to apply this powerful knowledge to your life in every area from health to wealth, to success in relationships. 'The Secret' is everything you have dreamed of and is beyond your wildest dreams."

Irresistible

Wow! With that kind of a buildup, who wouldn't want to grab the DVD or book? It seems too good to resist!

As Newsweek pointed out, 'The Secret' "was a stroke of marketing genius." Adds Donavin Bennes, a buyer who specializes in metaphysics for Borders Books: "We all want to be in on a secret. But to present it as the secret, that was brilliant."

Who is Byrne? "A divorced mother who had hit a rocky patch in her business and personal life. In that moment of despair when she wept and wept (as she recounted to Oprah on the first of two broadcasts devoted to her work), she discovered a long-neglected book dating from 1910 called 'The Science of Getting Rich.' In it she found how to let your thoughts and feelings get you everything you want and [was] determined to share it with the world. She called it 'The Secret.'"

And what is 'The Secret' all about? It is the Law of Attraction that holds that you create your own reality through your thoughts.

Age-old principle

So what's the big secret about that? Actually, nothing. This law or principle has been known for thousands of years. Buddha taught that the world as we know it is nothing more than our own mental creation. In my "Inner Mind" seminars, which I have been conducting regularly for the last 20 years, I mention the law of attraction as one of the four hidden laws of nature that says "like attracts like."

If you think positive thoughts, positive things happen to you. If negative, then negative things happen.

There is, therefore, nothing new about "The Secret." In fairness to Byrne, she never claimed that what she discovered was new. What is new is the way she promoted and marketed the book and the film. After arousing the curiosity of the Australian and American public, it is now sweeping the middle and upper-class segments of Philippine society.

The idea that if you visualize strongly enough something you really want, say, a particular car or camera, that object will physically appear before you sooner or later, is still not accepted by mainstream scientists.

> If you visualize strongly enough what you really want it will appear sooner or later

"That's preposterous, on a scientific level," according to them. But a few quantum physicists claim to have experimental evidence that "thoughts can influence physical objects."

Dr. Robert Jahn, an engineer, and psychologist Brenda Dunne of Princeton University have been conducting telekinesis experiments under scientifically controlled conditions to show the influence of thought on the fall of a roulette dice (See their book "Margins of Reality").

Untapped powers

Although the law of attraction is really no secret at all, I would give credit to Byrne for calling attention to one of the hidden laws of nature and to the largely untapped powers of the human mind, which this writer has been teaching and espousing for the last two decades.

By the way, the other three related hidden laws of nature not in 'The Secret' are: The Law of Affirmation (what you affirm becomes a reality); the Law of Compensation (whatever you do comes back to you, otherwise known as the law of karma); and the Law of Causality (everything has a cause; nothing happens by accident).

If you want to learn how to apply these hidden laws of nature in your life, attend my next seminar on "Inner Mind Development," "Basic ESP and Intuition Development," and "Soulmates, Karma and Reincarnation." Call Inner Mind Development Institute at 8107245, 8926806 or 0906-3561799. There's one scheduled in Davao, March 24-25. Call 0917-8313649 or 0917-7120253.

Firm but gentle: Young skin sans surgery

From page C1

or fifth treatment to see results," says Joya. "The effect is immediate and gets better with every treatment."

A typical package consists of five treatments spaced within two to three weeks. The client is asked to return every so often for follow-up treatments.

ReFirme, however, does not address such concerns as deep acne scars, pronounced lines and enlarged pores. For these problems, one has to undergo a more aggressive treatment such as Fraxel (which Facial Care also offers).

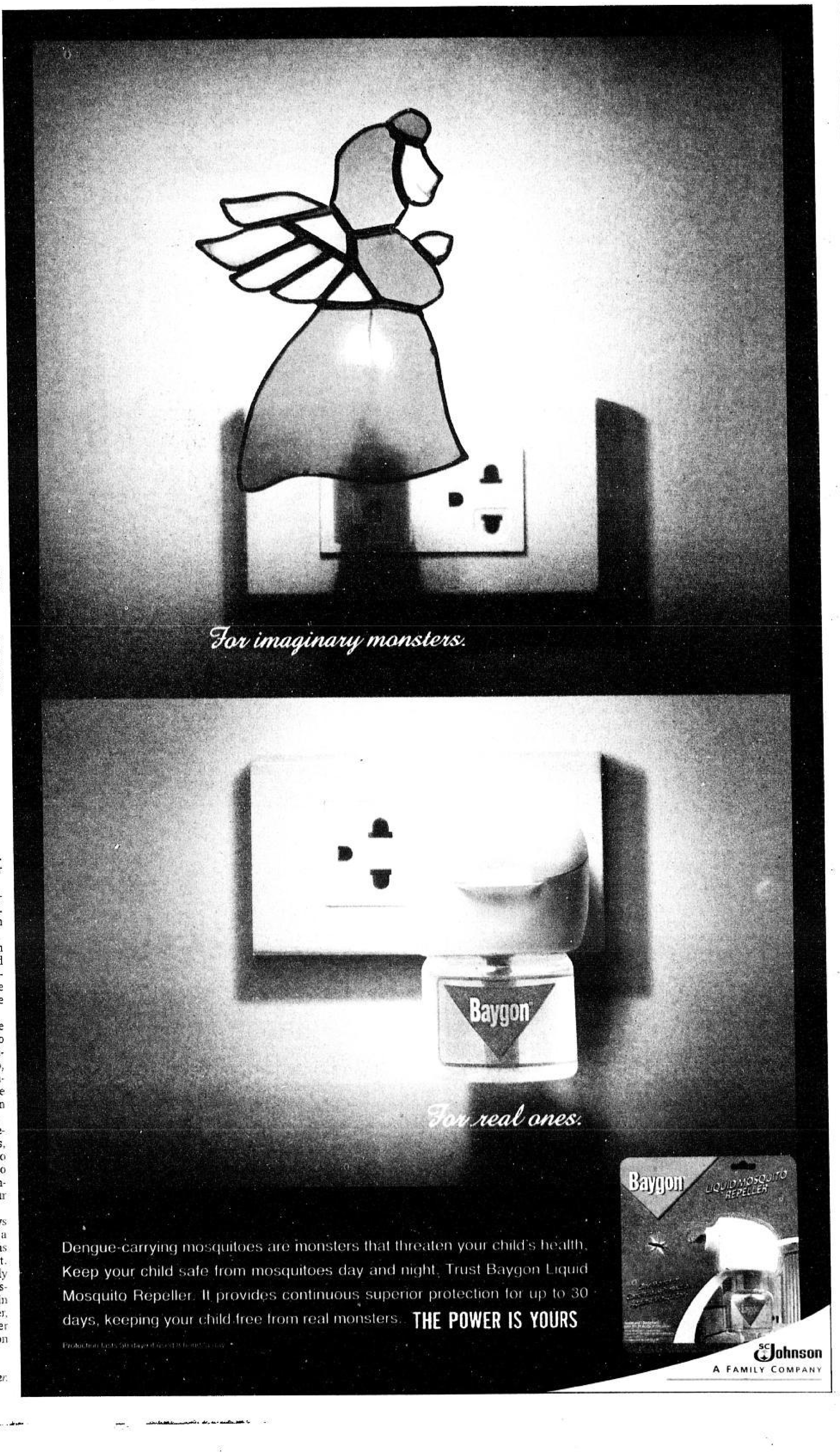
Joya says it pays to undergo ReFirme even before a person hits 40. But it is also never too late to benefit from it. Joya regularly attends to, and notices improvements in the faces of, clients in their 60s and 70s.

TWO months after treatment, the left side of this man's face is less flabby than the untreated right side.

"If you do ReFirme in your 30s, you won't have to subject yourself to painful Botox injections in your 40s," Joya says.

ReFirme, says Joya, can address a host of problems that Botox cannot. The latter merely relaxes the muscles to make skin appear tighter, while the former directly addresses the effects of gravity on facial muscles that come with age.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



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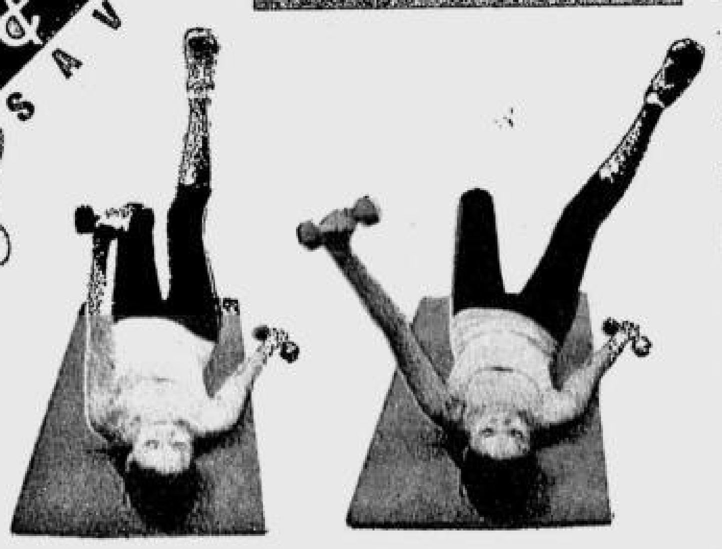
WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

Best exercises for strong bones

CLIP & SAVE

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK



Letter-V opposite arm and leg

THIS EXERCISE STRENGTHENS the chest, inner thighs and core muscles.

Equipment

Exercise mat and dumbbell. (Ankle weights are optional.)

Exercise technique

1. Lie on your back with your right leg and left arm straight above you.

2. Simultaneously lower arm and leg halfway between the starting position and the floor.

3. Bring your arm and leg back in together.

4. Do the desired number of repetitions, then do the other side with your left leg and right arm.

Performance tips

1. Maintain control of your arm and leg muscles throughout the exercise.

2. Avoid jerking or using momentum to raise or lower the weight.

3. Maintain a slight tightness in the abdominal area to stabilize your hips.

4. Inhale as you lower arm and leg; exhale on the return.

Repetitions

Do 10-15 repetitions on each side.

Part two

EXERCISE PLAYS AN important role in building bone in childhood and adolescence, maintaining bone before 50, and slowing down bone loss after 50. But exercises are not equal.

The best exercises are those with impact (running, sprinting, jumping) or resistance (squats, pushups, rock climbing).

Current research indicates that non-weight bearing exercise like cycling and swimming and light impact exercise like slow walking are not enough.

Yoga and Pilates

There are not many yoga or Pilates bone density studies. However, knowing that resistance exercise is effective, we can logically assume that some aspects of yoga and Pilates are beneficial.

Standing yoga poses, like the warrior and transitional lunges, can build leg and hip bones. One-legged poses, like tree, improve balance. Poses like reverse plank and upward and downward dog should strengthen wrist and forearm bones.

All yoga and Pilates exercises that require lifting of the legs or upper torso in the supine or prone (face up and face down) positions may build bone density in the lumbar spine.

Pilates machines that use the resistance of springs are similar to gym machines using cables.

Tai Chi

This gentle exercise improves balance and leg strength. Studies found that people who did tai chi reduced their rate of falling by 50 percent. When they do fall, their rate of fractures is much less. Do tai chi once or twice a week for at least 15 minutes.

Jumping

Skipping rope, jumping jacks and vertical jumps are effective bone-builders. Skip rope for at least 15 minutes 3-5 times a week. You only need two minutes a day for jumping jacks and vertical jumps. Do several 15-30 second jumps and rest in between.

Racquet sports

A Finnish study found that squash players and weight lifters had the highest bone mineral densities. Squash, tennis and badminton are stop-and-go sports with rapid multidirectional changes—all beneficial to bone strengthening.

Gardening

Growing flowers can help build bone but only if you actually shovel, rake and weed. Telling your gardener what to do doesn't count. A University of Arkansas study found that women older than 50 who went to the gym or who gardened had lower rates of osteoporosis.

Rowing

In an Oregon University study, postmenopausal women who rowed competitively for one year experienced a 6-percent greater increase in spine density than women who did not row but who were physically active.

> For people at risk of falling, lifting weights is a better and safer alternative than walking

Aerobic dance

Women who did a 45-minute step aerobics class three times a week for six months experienced a 3-percent increase in bone density in their spines, legs and heels.

Researchers at Texas A&M university say step aerobics adds the extra challenge of changes in direction and speed that stimulate the bones even better than skipping rope and jogging that only offer impact.

A British study found that high-impact aerobics (aerobics with hops, skips, and jumps) improved the hipbone density of postmenopausal women and men over 50.

Walking

A Johns Hopkins Hospital study found that light-intensity walking does not strengthen bones. Brisk walking delivers a higher impact than slow walking.

Brisk walking (as if you are late for an appointment) for 30 minutes four days a week can help reduce bone loss before and after menopause. A study found that women who regularly walked 7.5 miles a week lost bone at a slower rate (four to seven years longer) than women who did not walk.

For people at risk of falling, lifting weights is a better and safer alternative than walking.

Cycling

Off-road bikers have above average bone density while street cyclists have slightly below average bone density, according to a study published in the journal Bone. The jarring, bouncing and vibration on rough roads is a stimulation that builds bone.

If street cycling or spinning is your only exercise, add weight training or impact exercise to your regimen. A 2003 study found that male cyclists (aged 40-60) who had been cycling 12.2 hours a week for 20 years had bones that were 10 percent less dense than active non-cycling men their age. Of the 27 cyclists, 17 had moderate bone loss or osteopenia while four had severe bone loss or osteoporosis.

Profuse sweating from intense cycling may contribute to bone loss. Evidence suggests an hour of intense endurance training can result in a loss of 200 mg of calcium. A 1996 study attributed bone thinning among college basketball players to prolific sweating.

Swimming

Many studies found that swimmers had lower bone densities than athletes in weight-bearing sports and lower or similar bone densities as non-athletes. The results apply to males and females—prepuberty age, adolescents and adults. Swimming is not reputed to increase bone mineral density.

But most studies used dual X-ray absorptiometry (DXA), a two-dimensional measure highly influenced by body size.

Male water polo players and weightlifters assessed using quantitative computed tomography (QCT) had similar bone densities.

Rat studies found that swimming improved bone elasticity and structural strength—properties that could only be seen with quantitative ultrasound (QUS).

Perhaps when more human studies use QUS, swimming will shake off its bad reputation. In the meantime, swimmers should cross-train with weights or impact exercise.

Sources: National Osteoporosis Foundation, American College of Sports Medicine, American Council on Exercise, Harvard School of Public Health

Note: The Scientific Sports & Fitness Council will hold a Functional Training seminar March 24. Topics will include core functional anatomy and core exercises. Call 6348545 local 101.

Visit www.tinajuanfitness.info

Your Doctor Knows Best

Venancio I. Gloria, MD, FPCP, FPSG, FPSDE

Question:

I have been having chest discomfort. How would I know if this is GERD?

Doctor says…

The best way to know the cause of your chest discomfort is to consult a doctor. Chest discomfort may be secondary to many things. The most problematic among these conditions causing chest discomfort is the possibility of a heart disease. This is of primary concern because the presence of a cardiac condition can lead to sudden death, while the other causes (such as GERD or gastroesophageal reflux disease) do not kill patients suddenly. Once the doctor is certain that the cause of the chest discomfort is not a cardiac condition, the consideration will then be GERD.

GERD is characterized by the backflow of stomach contents, usually acid from the stomach to the esophagus. This happens when the muscle in the lower part of your esophagus called the lower esophageal sphincter, which prevents the reflux of stomach contents back to the esophagus, relaxes. You may also have problems in the clearance of acid in the esophagus or delay in the emptying of your stomach contents.

The symptoms of GERD can be divided into gastrointestinal (GI) and extra-GI manifestations. GI symptoms include heartburn or burning sensation in the chest, regurgitation or acid taste in the mouth, pain in the upper part of the stomach and chest pain. On the other hand, extra-GI manifestations include sore throat or hoarseness, cough, asthma, inflammation of the larynx (laryngitis) and dental erosion. Because of these symptoms, GERD affects quality of life, work productivity and sleeping pattern.

GERD is a spectrum of diseases, ranging from those without esophageal injury to those with complications such as inflammation of the esophagus (esophagitis), narrowing of the esophagus (stricture), bleeding, Barrett's esophagus (a pre-cancerous condition) and adenocarcinoma (a type of cancer). The longer the acid exposure of the esophagus, the higher the possibility of complications.

To determine the severity of the disease, your doctor may offer diagnostic tests (such as endoscopy) or therapeutic trial, which may be medications or advice on lifestyle modification.

The symptoms and complications of GERD can severely impair your quality of life. It is best to consult your doctor if you are experiencing chest discomfort or any of the symptoms.

Dr. Gloria is a Gastroenterologist. He is a consultant at the Philippine General Hospital and holds clinics at The Medical City and Manila Doctors Hospital. He is also a professor in the University of the Philippines, College of Medicine.

This column is supported by AstraZeneca Philippines as part of its disease awareness campaign. This is not intended to replace the advice of a healthcare professional. Always consult your doctor.

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Dr. Carmen Ang-Jimenez provides us with this week's discussion on Cervical Cancer. Dr. Ang, a medicine graduate of FEU-NRMF, took her residency training for OB-Gynecology in 1994 and later had her subspecialization in Colposcopy. Currently she is the section Chief of Colposcopy Clinic, the Assistant Training Officer of the department of OB-Gynecology, and the Head of Women's Healthcare Center in Metropolitan Medical Center. Dr. Ang is married to Mr. Homar Jimenez and blessed with three children. MEDICard members may avail for her consultations at the Women's healthcare Center in Metropolitan Medical Center every Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9-5pm and every Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 9-12 noon.

Nicky

MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.

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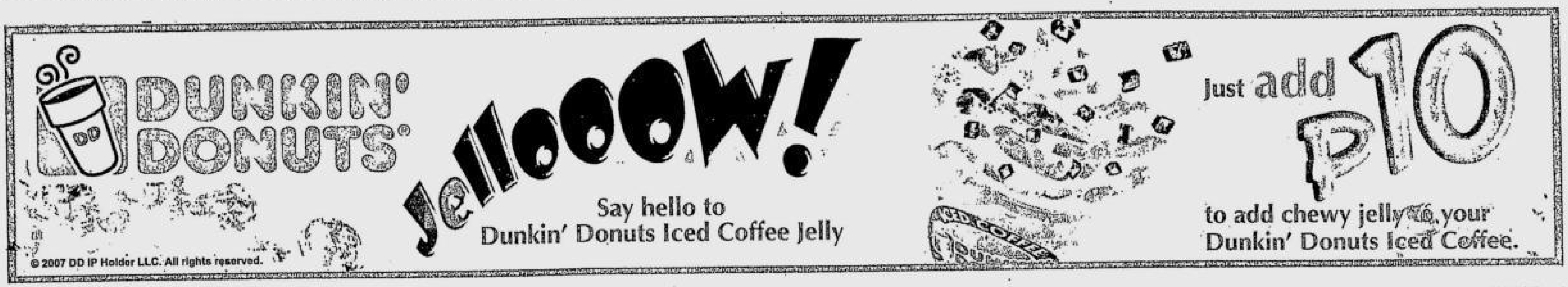
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No special girl for Dennis T

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

DENNIS TRILLO IS ECSTATIC ABOUT HIS self-titled debut album (Indimusic, Universal Records). It contains 12 tracks, including a duet with **Regine Velasquez** (album producer along with **Ogie Alcasid**) "Magtatagpong Muli," Ogie's composition "Para Sa Iyo," the Air Supply hit "All Out of Love" and Eric Carmen's "Love is All that Matters."

After proving his worth as an actor, Dennis is now bent on becoming a concert artist. "It's harder to sing live than to act 'cause *walang* take two," says Dennis. "But singing is like acting. As an actor I get into character for the role to come to life. When I sing, I have to really feel the lyrics."

Is he out to beat **Sam Milby** and **Piolo Pascual** who are also matinee idols-turned-singers? "They have their own style. I have mine. There's room for everybody."

Any special girl he had in mind while recording the album? "To whom it may concern *na lang* (laughs)!"

For sure, legions of girls out there would gladly volunteer.

Framed up?

MY heart goes out to **Niño Muhlach**, who was arrested for possession of 1.9 grams of shabu in a Libis mall. He has posted bail. I texted him but got no reply.

According to a mutual friend, Onin must have been framed up. I don't discount the possibility of a political angle, in light of the election fever. Onin's a staunch FPJ supporter. With his thriving businesses, I see no reason for him to resort to drugs.

The last time we spoke, he was in high spirits, telling me about how he met his love child after 11 long years. I always tease Onin about his womanizing. We all have our vices. Knowing Onin, he would choose the lesser evil.

Stop the shoot!

THE SHOOT of **Asia Agcaoili**'s sexy video, "Bedtime," with The Men of Provoq got really steamy. The mom of "Philippine Idol" finalist **Jan Nieto**, owner of the house in Marikina where they were filming, stopped the shoot. She demanded to talk to the location manager, who was not around. The cast and crew had to change venues pronto! Hmmm… Asia's "Bedtime" VCD is bound to keep you up all night.

New 'Fantasticman'

MARK Herras is all agog preparing for his role as "Fantasticman." Will his thwarted romance with **Ryza Cenon** be rekindled on the set?

He grins. "Anything can happen. *Abangan!*" Won't he feel awkward donning the superhero's costume? Its body-hugging fit could reveal if he's "fantastically endowed" or not. He blushes. "I'll get used to it. I hope they enjoy the view (laughs)!"

It remains to be seen if Mark will make his mark in that aspect, among other things, as he reprises **Vic Sotto**'s role.

More peaceful

SOMEBODY privy to **Jennylyn Mercado**'s love life told me that her relationship with **Patrick Garcia** is more peaceful than her previous romance with **Mark Herras**. "When Mark and Jen would fight, war *talaga. Pareho silang* high strung. Patrick is more calm *kaya di ma*-drama *relasyon nila*. It must be the age factor." Sometimes age does matter if we want love to age gracefully in our lives.

Happy pair

Shaina Magdayao and **Rayver Cruz** are the certified new Guy and Pip after the success of their movie, Regal Entertainment's "Happy Hearts." Rayver happens to be the nephew of Pip, who plays Shaina's dad in the film. Pipo approves of the match. "I get nostalgic seeing Rayver and Shaina *sa* set. *Parang kami ni* Guy before."

History and (fan) hysteria repeats itself? Looks like the "Shaiver" magic will not make a vanishing act.

E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com.

FROM left, Michael V, Paulken Bustillo, Gian Bernabe and Carmi Martin in the episode, "Ang Kapatid Kong si Elvis."

'Paraiso' interrupted

Gawad Kalinga movie screened in US; local preem delayed

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

INITIALLY SCHEDULED THIS month, the local premiere of the Gawad Kalinga movie, "Paraiso: Tatlong Kuwento ng Pag-Asa," has been moved to June—primarily because one of its lead stars, Cesar Montano, had decided to run for the Senate.

This was confirmed by Bobby Barreiro, the trilogy's executive producer. The film's other executive producers are Maria Montelibano and Antonio Meloto, founder of the much-awarded non-governmental organization Gawad Kalinga.

Barreiro explained: "We had a choice to debut in March or in June. If we opened this month, we'd have an impact on the coming elections and [maybe] raise funds for the typhoon victims in Bicol as swiftly as possible. A June play date, however, would give us time to better promote the movie and get more students to watch it."

Comelec rule

But, Barreiro said, "Cesar's senatorial bid made the issue moot and academic; we can't violate Comelec rules."

(Actors seeking public office are not allowed to appear in movies or on TV shows.)

There was a proposal to seek an exemption, Barreiro noted, "but we didn't want to politicize Gawad Kalinga."

The movie's US screening schedules were not affected, said Barreiro. "The screenings in St. Louis on March 3 went well. We had a full house. We expect the same [success] in other cities."

The movie was shown in Fremont, Peninsula, and San Francisco, California last Sunday. It will be screened in Dallas, Texas on March 24; in Los Angeles, California on March 31; and in Seattle, Washington on April 22, among other US cities.

Also planned are showings in Canada, Australia, Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore

'PARAISO'/D2

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MELY TAGASA REY SOLO TADO BERTING LABRA
PHILIPP SUPNET JAY AR APUYAN VANESSA MERCADO
BAYANI CASIMIRO JR. RIVA REYES SHALALA
FLORA GASSER RAFRAF SANTIAGO

Written & Directed by:
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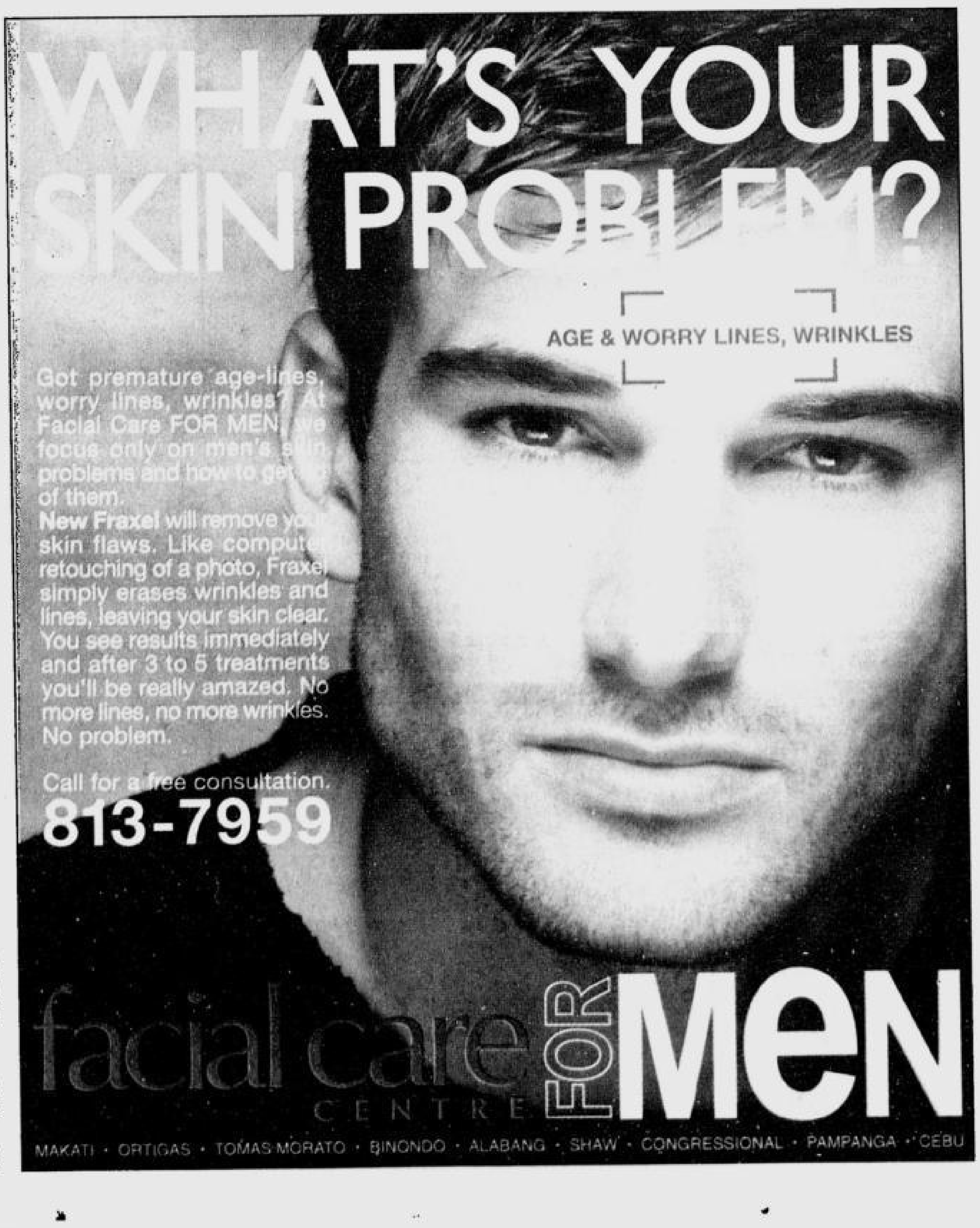
*(MISTEYKS OPDA NEYSION ADRES YATA)

OPENS TOMORROW

ADVENTURES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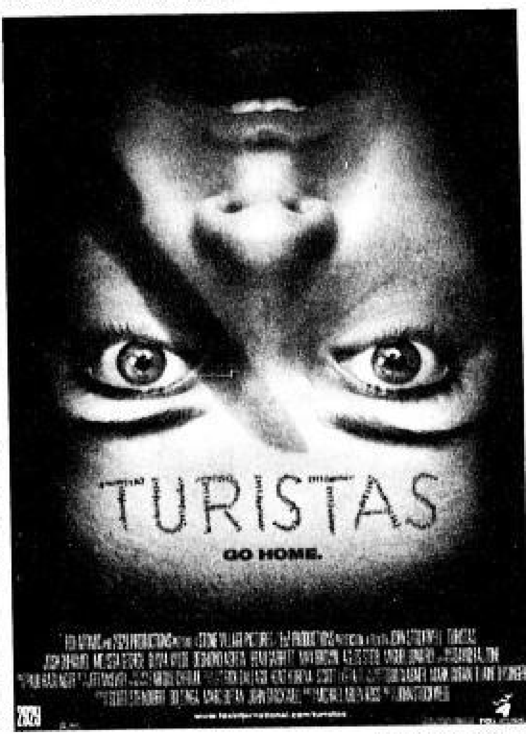
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OPENS MARCH 21

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MTRCB Rating: R-13

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IMAX
SUPERMAN RETURNS 3D
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NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2D
8:00PM Admission Fee- P200/ P250
T-REX IN 3D
12:30PM 2:00PM 3:30PM
Admission Fee- P200
1 PATHFINDER
2 DREAMGIRLS
3 BECAUSE I SAID SO
4 PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS
5 HAPPY HEARTS
6 BATAD/ GHOST RIDER
PREMIERE CINEMA
ROCKY BALBOA
CENTERSTAGE
300
THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
BECAUSE I SAID SO
CINEMA 2
DREAMGIRLS
633-8976

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 DREAMGIRLS
2 IT'S A BOY GIRL THING
3 ROCKY BALBOA
4 GHOST RIDER
5 YOU GOT ME
6 300
7 BECAUSE I SAID SO
8 HAPPY HEARTS
9 SIQUIJOR
10 DEAD PEOPLE 2
11 PATHFINDER
12 PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
2 DREAMGIRLS
3 300
4 PATHFINDER
5 ROCKY BALBOA
6 BECAUSE I SAID SO
7 SIQUIJOR
8 MUSIC AND LYRICS
9 HAPPY HEARTS
10 YOU GOT ME
11 GHOST RIDER
12 PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 PRIMEVAL
2 ROCKY BALBOA
3 GHOST RIDER
4 300
5 YOU GOT ME
6 DREAMGIRLS
7 PATHFINDER
8 HAPPY HEARTS
9 BECAUSE I SAID SO
10 SIQUIJOR
11 DEAD PEOPLE 2
12 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 ROCKY BALBOA
2 DREAMGIRLS
3 300
4 PATHFINDER
5 HAPPY HEARTS
6 PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS
7 BECAUSE I SAID SO
8 SIQUIJOR
9 YOU GOT ME
10 GHOST RIDER

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 ROCKY BALBOA
2 300
3 PATHFINDER
4 DREAMGIRLS/ SIQUIJOR
5 BECAUSE I SAID SO
6 HAPPY HEARTS

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 ROCKY BALBOA
2 SIQUIJOR
3 PATHFINDER
4 300
5 BECAUSE I SAID SO
6 DREAMGIRLS
7 HAPPY HEARTS
8 GHOST RIDER
9 BATAD/ YOU GOT ME

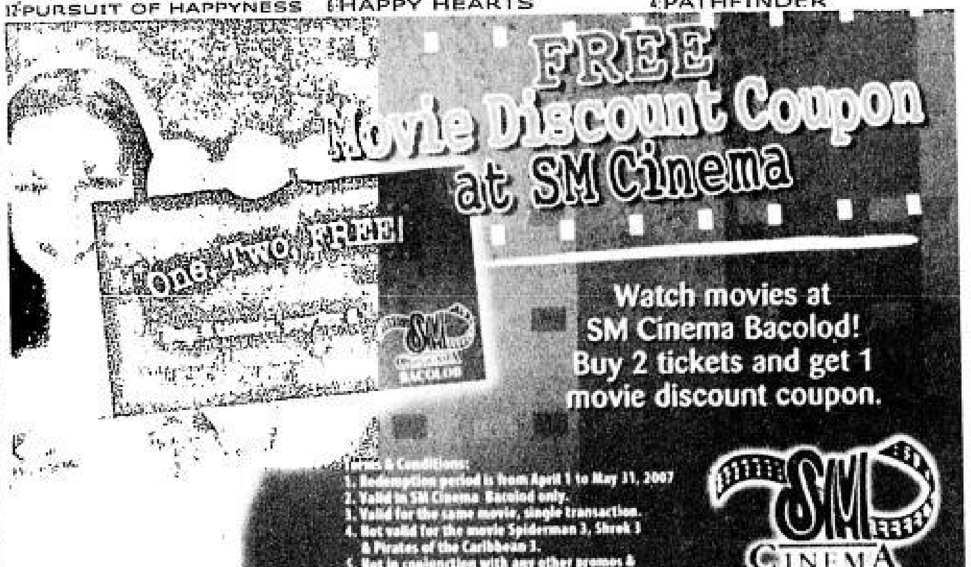
SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 PATHFINDER
2 HAPPY HEARTS
3 ROCKY BALBOA
4 300

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 ROCKY BALBOA
2 PATHFINDER
3 BECAUSE I SAID SO
4 GHOST RIDER
5 DREAMGIRLS
6 300
7 EPIC MOVIE
8 DEAD PEOPLE 2
9 HAPPY HEARTS
10 YOU GOT ME
11 SIQUIJOR
12 PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4322231-04
1 300
2 HAPPY HEARTS
3 IT'S A BOY GIRL THING
4 EPIC MOVIE

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 300
2 ROCKY BALBOA
3 DEAD PEOPLE 2
4 HAPPY HEARTS

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 ROCKY BALBOA
2 300
3 HAPPY HEARTS
4 PATHFINDER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2 GHOST RIDER
3 ROCKY BALBOA
4 HAPPY HEARTS
5 300
6 YOU GOT ME
7 DEAD PEOPLE 2
8 PATHFINDER

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 300
2 EPIC MOVIE
3 BECAUSE I SAID SO
4 YOU GOT ME
5 HAPPY HEARTS
6 GHOST RIDER

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 THE GOOD SHEPHERD
2 HAPPY HEARTS
3 YOU GOT ME
4 NUMBER 23

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 FLUSHED AWAY
2 MUSIC AND LYRICS
3 YOU GOT ME
4 NUMBER 23

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)8637681-85
1 EPIC MOVIE
2 300
3 BECAUSE I SAID SO
4 YOU GOT ME
5 NUMBER 23
6 HAPPY HEARTS

SM CIY LIPA (043) 756-7925
1 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
2 MUSIC ANG LYRIS
3 YOU GOT ME
4 FLUSHED AWAY

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 YOU GOT ME
2 THE FOUNTAIN
3 PRIMEVAL
4 GHOST RIDER

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 HAPPY HEARTS
2 BECAUSE I SAID SO
3 THE RETURN/ MUSIC AND LYRICS
4 300

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 ROCKY BALBOA
2 300
3 HAPPY HEARTS
4 PATHFINDER

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5340811
1 ROCKY BALBOA
2 MUSIC AND LYRICS
3 HAPPY HEARTS
4 300

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 300
2 BATAD
3 HAPPY HEARTS
4 THE HITCHER
5 BECAUSE I SAID SO
6 EPIC MOVIE

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 300
2 IT'S A GIRL BOY THING
3 YOU GOT ME
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SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
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2 RESERVED
3 300
4 YOU GOT ME
5 IT'S A GIRL BOY THING
6 HAPPY HEARTS
7 RESERVED
8 BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 THE GOOD SHEPHERD
2 EPIC MOVIE
3 300
4 BECAUSE I SAID SO
5 BATAD/ GHOST RIDER
6 YOU GOT ME
7 SPIRIT TRAP
8 HAPPY HEARTS

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010 NOW OPEN
1 HAPPY HEARTS
2 300
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4 YOU GOT ME

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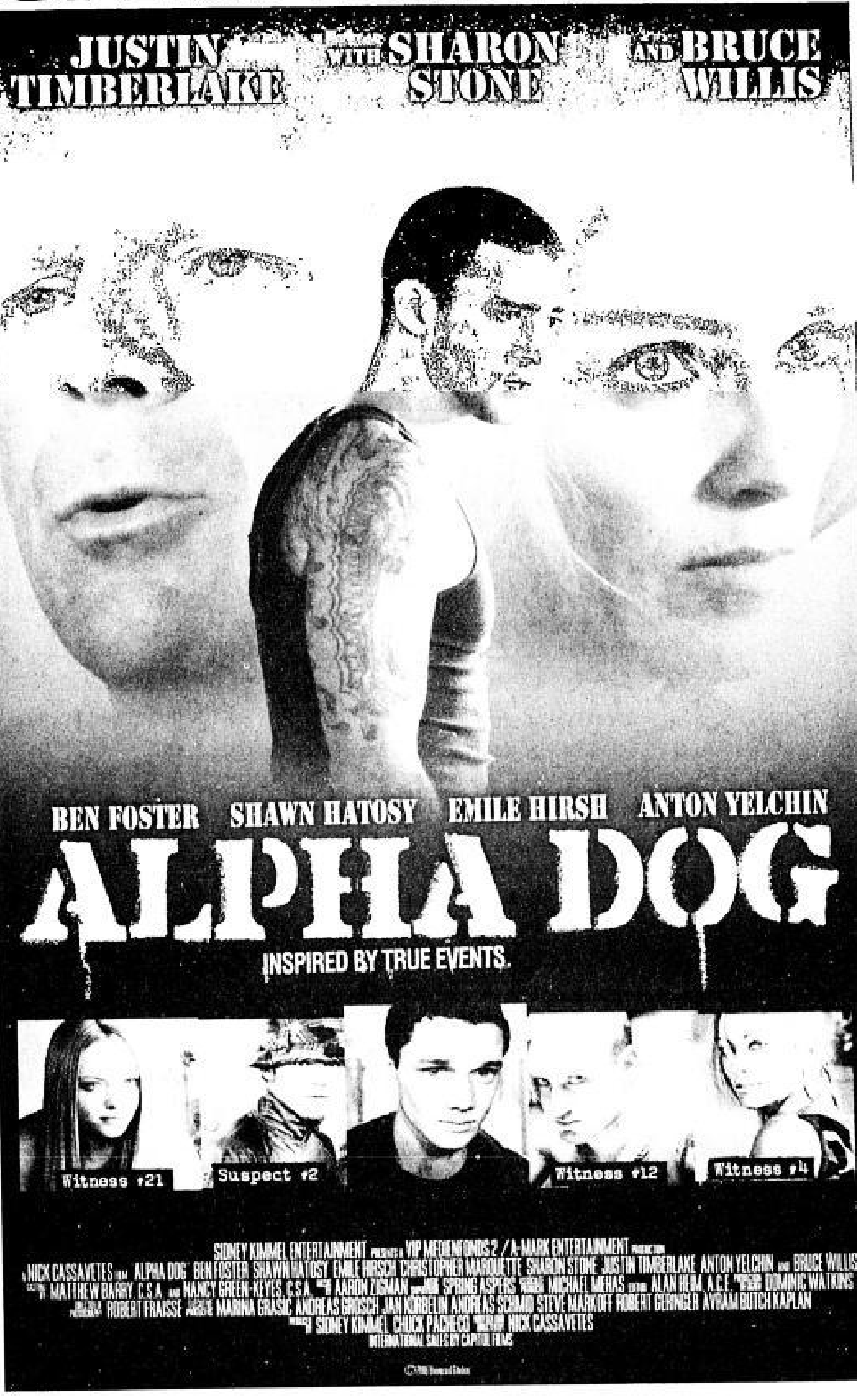
OPENS TOMORROW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'Paraiso'

From page D1

and Italy.

Barreiro said the film's Manila premiere is now set on June 12 at the SM Mall of Asia. "SM will exclusively screen it in its theaters nationwide," he said.

Producer Butch Jimenez was of the opinion that a June premiere "seemed more appropriate," since it would coincide with Philippine Independence Day. He added, "Tony Meloto's dream is our country's independence from poverty."

Jimenez said they also intend to get accreditation from the Department of Education.

Sought for comment, Montano told INQUIRER Entertainment in a phone interview that producer Tony Gloria had discussed the postponement with him.

Unselfish

"When I told Tony [I was running], he was very considerate and supportive," Montano recalled, describing Gloria as a real friend.

"After the campaign, whether I win or lose, I promise to fully support GK. This is a very unselfish film. It's for a noble cause—to build homes. I've learned so much from the GK people."

The actor recounted, "In 1998, I visited a GK village in Cavite, with [stage director] Behn Cervantes."

In "Paraiso," Montano plays Rudy Abad, a Filipino-American who helped build such a GK village in Baseco to fulfill his late American wife's wish.

"We had fun shooting our episode ('Marie')," Montano said.

The episode director was actor Ricky Davao. Montano described Davao as "a singer first; an actor, second; and a filmmaker, third."

The other two episodes of "Paraiso" top-bills Maricel Soriano ("Umiyak Man ang Langit") and Michael V ("Ang Kap-

PARAISO/ D3

RICKY Davao directs one episode.

This movie produced by an award-winning NGO will be shown in 53 cities worldwide, 23 of them in the US

From page D2

atid Kong si Elvis").

Last week, the Cinema Evaluation Board awarded "Paraiso" a grade of B, entitling it to a 65 percent tax rebate in the Philippines.

Jimenez quoted Meloto as saying: "We got good feedback from the audiences in Boston, St. Louis and Las Vegas. It will be shown in 53 cities worldwide, 23 of them in the US."

Encouraging

"It is true that ticket sales have been brisk almost everywhere the movie has been scheduled," Barreiro confirmed. "It has been encouraging so far. We attribute this to the support from Couples for Christ and many other heroes who continue to believe and support GK."

The international screenings are not covered by the Comelec ruling, Barreiro stressed. In any case, he said the GK movie goes beyond politics.

"GK is about hope," Barreiro said. "While we are barraged with a seemingly endless stream of bad news every day ... 'Paraiso' shows that something good can arise from calamities and tragedies. If we all do our share, we can fight homelessness and poverty. No Filipino should be a squatter in his homeland."

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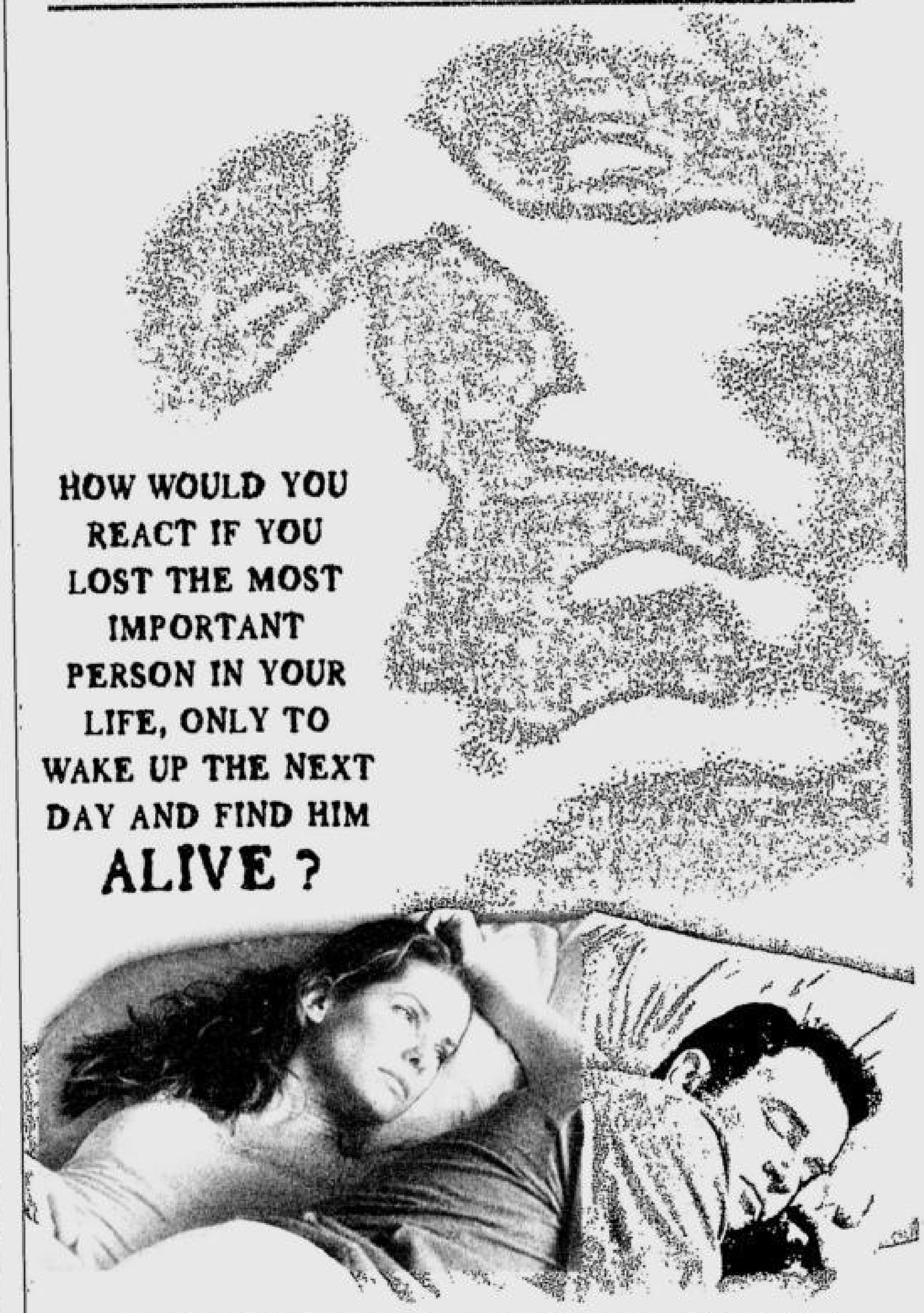
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City

To receive Eastwood City Events, Promos and Cinema schedule just text eastwood and send to 2948 for Globe, Smart & Sun Cellular subscribers

For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1	DREAM GIRLS	2:20, 5:20, 8:20, 11:10	PG-13
2	300	12:15, 2:45, 5:35, 8:25, 11:10	R-13
3	BECAUSE I SAID SO	1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00	R-13
4	PATHFINDER	1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00	R-13

MTRCB ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE
PATHFINDER
TWO WORLDS. ONE WAR. THE ULTIMATE BATTLE BEGINS.
NOW SHOWING



OPENS TOMORROW
SLEEPING WITH THE DEAD
HOW WOULD YOU REACT IF YOU LOST THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON IN YOUR LIFE, ONLY TO WAKE UP THE NEXT DAY AND FIND HIM ALIVE ?
SANDRA BULLOCK
PREMONITION

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! Ayala Malls Lovemalls!

AT THE CINEMAS
THX
Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations
Movie schedules may change without prior notice For verification please call 729 7777

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 PATHFINDER	2 300	3 ROCKY BALBOA	4 HAPPY HEART			
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 ROCKY BALBOA	2 300	3 THX THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS GUARANTEED SEATS	4 PATHFINDER	5 DREAMGIRLS	6 NOTES ON A SCANDAL	7 BECAUSE I SAID SO
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 BECAUSE I SAID SO	2 300					
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX ROCKY BALBOA GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX 300 GUARANTEED SEATS	3 PATHFINDER GUARANTEED SEATS	4 DREAMGIRLS GUARANTEED SEATS	5 BECAUSE I SAID SO GUARANTEED SEATS		
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX ROCKY BALBOA GUARANTEED SEATS	2 300	3 BECAUSE I SAID SO	4 DREAMGIRLS	5 PATHFINDER		
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 300	2 BECAUSE I SAID SO	3 THE GOOD SHEPHERD	4 EPIC MOVIE			
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 ROCKY BALBOA	2 DREAMGIRLS	3 BECAUSE I SAID SO	4 SIQUIJOR	5 HAPPY HEART		

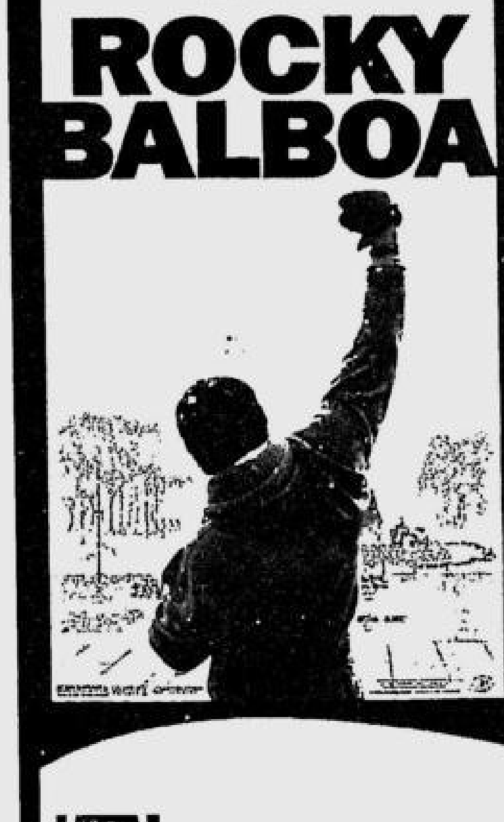
At the Activity Center
Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 9pm
Greenbelt - 757 4853; from 11am to 9pm
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
BPI Express Credit Installment Madness February 28 to March 18, 2007	Anson's Exhibit March 5 to 23, 2007
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
Looney Tunes presents Lights, Camera... Showtime! March 16 to 18, 2007	Nutri-911 Kiddie Alert March 18, 2007

GREENBELT — Greenbelt 5 Sneak Peek presents Collection of Lila Almario
March 7 to 18, 2007

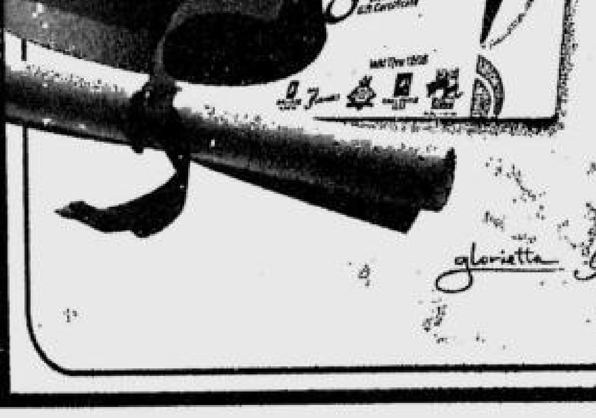
Onstage — Repertory Philippines presents GAY BIRDS
at REP's Globe Theater - March 16 to April 1, 2007
For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710

Ayala MUSEUM — Registration Ongoing for Summer Art Workshops at Ayala Museum
For more information, please call
Charis Oliveros at 757-7117 to 21 local 29



It ain't over 'til it's over.
ROCKY BALBOA

Be among the first to watch at regular admission prices
Ayala Malls CINEMAS
SPECIAL SNEAK PREVIEW
ROCKY BALBOA
March 19 (Mon.) & 20 (Tue.)
GLORIETTA 4
GREENBELT 3
GLORIETTA 1
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
MARKET! MARKET!
MTRCB Rating: PG-13
Regular run begins Mar. 28 at Ayala Malls Cinemas
20th Century Fox
glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER MARKET! MARKET!



Give the new graduates a thousand choices.
Give them the Ayala Malls eGC.
Honored in more than 1,000 establishments in Glorietta, Greenbelt, Alabang Town Center, Market!Market! and Ayala Center Cebu (includes Landmark, Rustan's Makati and Alabang, SM Makati, Makati Supermarket, Metro Market!Market! and Metro Gaisano Cebu)
Call 752-7272 for details or email egc@ayalamalls.com.ph
glorietta GREENBELT TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! Powered by BPI
www.ayalamalls.com.ph

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA
Ticket Price THX:P161 131 Indie Sine:101 632-9116

1 THE GOOD SHEPHERD • THX
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

2 300
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

3 PATHFINDER
12:10 2:35 5:00 7:25 9:50

4 ROCKY BALBOA Sneak Preview
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

5 DREAMGIRLS
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

6 THE PURSUIT of HAPPYNESS
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

7 SIQUIJOR
1:35 3:40 5:45 7:50 10:00

8 indieSine: COMPOUND
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

9 BECAUSE I SAID SO
1:05 3:15 5:25 7:35 9:50

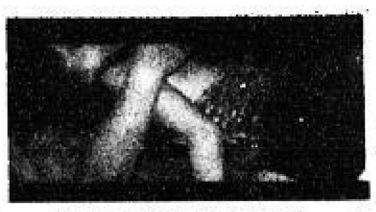
10 HAPPY HEARTS
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

OPENING ON WEDNESDAY !

A BLOODY WEEK!

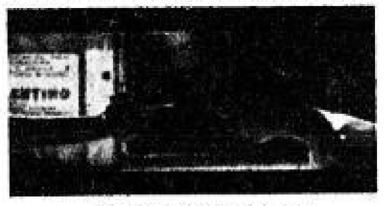
Two internationally-screened films exloring the primal and gutsy part of humanity

Jon Red's
ANAK NG TINAPA



Starring Ryan Eigenmann,
Chynna Cojuangco & Ping Medina!

Ato Bautista's
SA AKING PAGKAGISING MULA SA KAMULATAN



Starring Carlo Aquino,
Ketchup, Lito Pimentel & Cholo Barretto!

ONLY AT INDIESINE, Robinsons Galleria!

ERMITA
Ticket Price.P110 536-7809 to 12

1 300
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

2 SIQUIJOR
2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

3 DREAMGIRLS
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

4 HAPPY HEARTS
12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 10:00

5 BECAUSE I SAID SO
12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 10:00

6 PATHFINDER
12:35 3:00 5:25 7:45 10:00

7 ROCKY BALBOA
Sneak Preview

METRO EAST
Ticket Price:P100 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 DREAMGIRLS
12:45 3:30 6:15 9:00

2 300
12:55 3:40 6:25 9:10

3 ROCKY BALBOA
Sneak Preview

4 HAPPY HEARTS
11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

5 The PURSUIT of HAPPYNESS
1:00 3:40 6:20 9:00

6 BECAUSE I SAID SO
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

7 PATHFINDER
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:35 9:00

8 THE GOOD SHEPHERD
12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00

NOVALICHES
Ticket Price:P91 / P96 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 PATHFINDER
2 HAPPY HEARTS
4 DREAMGIRLS
4 BECAUSE I SAID SO
5 ROCKY BALBOA Sneak Preview
6 300

PIONEER
Ticket Price:P100 687-5378

1 ROCKY BALBOA
Sneak Preview

2 PATHFINDER
1:25 3:50 6:15 8:40

3 BECAUSE I SAID SO
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:35 8:40

4 DREAMGIRLS
1:15 3:45 6:15 8:40

STA. ROSA
Ticket Price:P80 (049) 837-0907

1 ROCKY BALBOA Sneak Preview
2 MUSIC and LYRICS
3 HAPPY HEARTS
4 BABEL
5 YOU GOT ME

LIPA
Ticket Price: P 90 (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 FLUSHED AWAY
2 BRIDGE to TERABITHIA
3 IT'S A BOY GIRL THING
4 YOU GOT ME
5 MUSIC and LYRICS

DASMARIÑAS
Ticket Price: P80 (046) 416-4332

1 EPIC MOVIE
2 300
3 HAPPY HEARTS
4 IT'S A BOY GIRL THING

ANGELES
Ticket Price: P 90 (045) 892-2348

1 BECAUSE I SAID SO
2 HAPPY HEARTS
3 EPIC MOVIE
4 300

IMUS
Ticket Price: P100 (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 BECAUSE I SAID SO
2 HAPPY HEARTS
3 PATHFINDER
4 300
5 THE HITCHER
6 ROCKY BALBOA Sneak Preview

STARMILLS
Ticket Price: P80 (045) 875-1927

1 EPIC MOVIE
2 HAPPY HEARTS
3 YOU GOT ME
4 BECAUSE I SAID SO
5 THE NUMBER 23
6 300

BACOLOD
Ticket Price: P70 (034) 441-0459

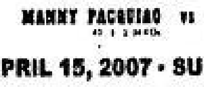
1 300
2 ARTHUR and the INVISIBLES
3 HANNIBAL RISING
4 HAPPY HEARTS
5 FLUSHED AWAY
6 YOU GOT ME

ILOILO
Ticket Price: P70.50 (033) 336-8070

1 300
2 HAPPY HEARTS
3 BLOOD and CHOCOLATE
4 ROME and JULIET
5 THE HITCHER
6 IT'S A BOY GIRL THING

BLAZE of GLORY

SAME PLACE



DIFFERENT SCENARIO

PAC-MAN

The WBC International Super Featherweight Championship

MANNY PACQUIAO vs JORGE SOLIS

APRIL 15, 2007 • SUNDAY • 8 AM
LIVE via SATELLITE

TICKET PRICE: P500

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 (DOLBY) BECAUSE I SAID SO
2 (DOLBY) 300
3 (DOLBY) ROCKY BALBOA
4 (DOLBY) DREAMGIRLS

PREVIERE
(DOLBY) PATHFINDER

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1 300
2 PATHFINDER
3 HAPPY HEARTS
4 DREAM GIRLS

starmall
EDSA • SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7268150

3 HAPPY HEART
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) PATHFINDER
5 RESRVED

metropolis star cinema
www.chickthesity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 8433994

1 YOU GOT ME
2 HAPPY HEART
3 300
4 GHOST RIDER

THEATRES
Pacific Mall Cabanatuan
Telephone No. (044) 600-3025

1 GHOST RIDER
2 YOU GOT ME
3 PRIMEVAL

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271

1 YOU GOT ME
2 GHOST RIDER
3 RESRVED
4 RESRVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DTS) PATHFINDER
2 (SDDS) BECAUSE I SAID SO
3 (DTS) 300
4 (GOLD DTS) 300
5 (GOLD DOLBY) DREAM GIRLS
6 (GOLD SDDS) THE GOOD SHEPHERD
7 (GOLD DOLBY) PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS
8 HAPPY HEARTS
9 SYQUIJOR
10 YOU GOT ME

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 (DOLBY) HAPPY HEARTS
2 (DOLBY) 300
3 (DOLBY) DREAM GIRL
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334229

1 (DOLBY) PATHFINDER
2 300
3 HAPPY HEARTS
4 YOU GOT ME
5 SYQUIJOR

THE MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 HAPPY HEARTS
2 GHOST RIDER
3 RESERVED
4 THE HITCHER

Maragana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 HAPPY HEARTS
2 THE MESSENGER
3 YOU GOT ME

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)

1 300
2 MUSIC & LYRICS

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX) 300
2 HAPPY HEARTS
3 (DTS EX) EPIC MOVIE
4 BECAUSE I SAID SO

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 PRIMEVAL
2 YOU GOT ME

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.4963 or 72

1 (DOLBY) DREAM GIRL
2 (DOLBY) 300
3 (DOLBY) BECAUSE I SAID SO
4 (DOLBY) PATHFINDER

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 HAPPY HEARTS
2 (DTS) THE MESSENGER
3 (DOLBY) 300
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146

1 RESERVED
2 (DOLBY) RESERVED
3 (DTS) RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 BLOOD CHOCOLATE
2 YOU GOT ME
3 (DOLBY) PRIMEVAL

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 MUSIC & LYRICS
2 YOU GOT ME
3 (DOLBY) GHOST RIDER
4 (DTS) PRIMEVAL

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plandel) tel (044) 795.3320

1 BRIDGE TO TRABITHIA
2 HAPPY HEARTS
3 (DOLBY) YOU GOT ME

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736

1 PRIMEVAL
2 YOU GOT ME

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1 WILD BUTTERFLY
2 GHOST RIDER

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) BRIDGE TO TERABITTHIA
2 FIRST TIME
3 TOO MUCH FLESH
4 (DTS) ASK THE DUSK

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) 300
2 U-BELT
3 (DTS) HAPPY HEARTS
4 SHAOLIN VS' EVIL DEAD
5 THE MESSENGER

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 BRIDGE TO TERABITTHIA
2 FLUSHED AWAY
3 MUSIC & LYRICS
4 YOU GOT ME

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 ASK THE DUSK
2 THE RETURN

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

DID YOU KNOW...

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA—Actor Nicolas Cage and a crew are expected to arrive next month to film parts of the sequel to the 2004 movie "National Treasure" at Mount Rushmore National Memorial. *AP*

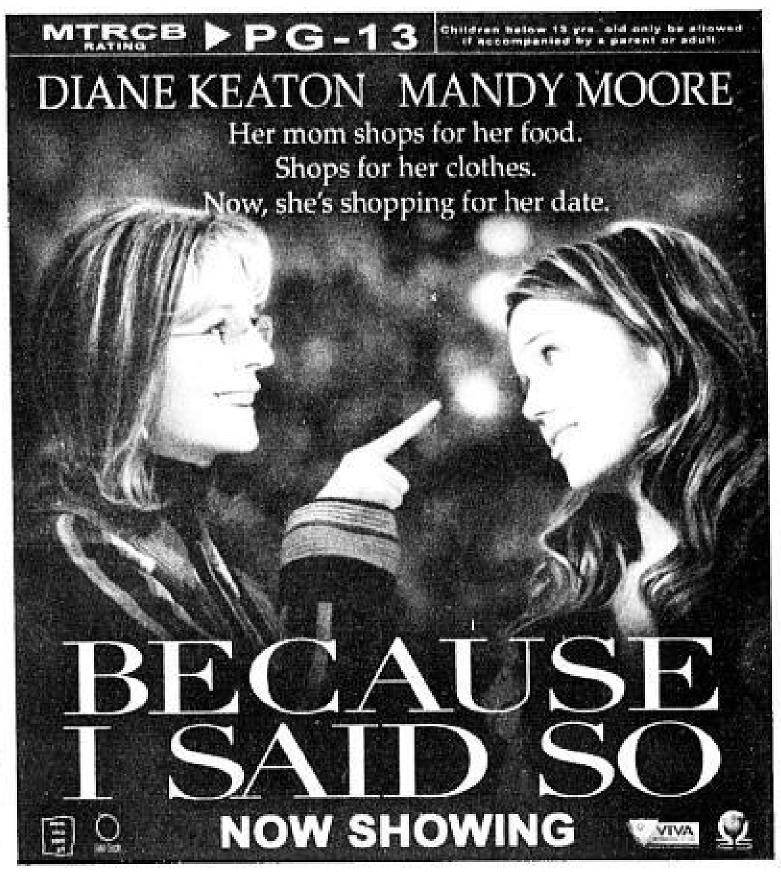
POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND • EX

PATHFINDER **R13** 1:10,3:30,5:50,8:10	**BECAUSE I SAID SO** **PG13** 1:50,4:00,6:10, :20,10:30	**ROCKY BALBOA** **PG13** 1:25,3:40,5:55, 8:10,10:25
DREAMGIRLS **PG13** 2:30,5:10,7:50,10:30	**GOOD SHEPHERD** **R13** 1:20,4:35 **PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS** **G** 7:50,10:20	**300** **R13** 12:30,3:00,5:30, 8:00,10:30

MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898-1440-41
MATINNEE 110.00 FREE SEATING SCREENING BEFORE 5:00P.M. – MONDAY-FRIDAY



MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

DIANE KEATON MANDY MOORE

Her mom shops for her food.
Shops for her clothes.
Now, she's shopping for her date.

BECAUSE I SAID SO

NOW SHOWING

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA

THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1 — PATHFINDER
10:30 , 12:50 , 3:10
5:30 7:50 10:10
R-13

CINEMA 2 — DREAMGIRLS
12:00 , 2:45 , 5:25
8:05 , 10:35
PG-13

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND • EX

PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 3 — BECAUSE I SAID SO
11:00 , 1:20 , 3:40
6:00 , 8:20 , 10:35
PG-13

CINEMA 4 — ROCKY BALBOA
10:30 , 12:50 ,3:10
5:30 , 7:50 , 10:10
PG-13

CINEMA 5 — 300
11:00 , 1:45 , 4:30
7:15 , 10:00
R-13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

March 16 & 23 , 2007	SITTI... IN LOVE	8:30 PM
March 30 , 2007	[illegible]	8:30 PM
May 25 , 2007	CHRISTIAN BAUTISTA	8:00 PM

TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS

EVERY MONDAY	DANCE NIGHT	7:00 PM
March 15 , 22 , 29 , 2007	RAYMUND LAUCHENGCO	8:30 PM

FOR INQUIRIES PLS. CALL 722-4532 LOC 116

MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE

There are some places tourists should never go

TURISTAS
GO HOME

www.foxinternational.com/turistas

OPENS TOMORROW

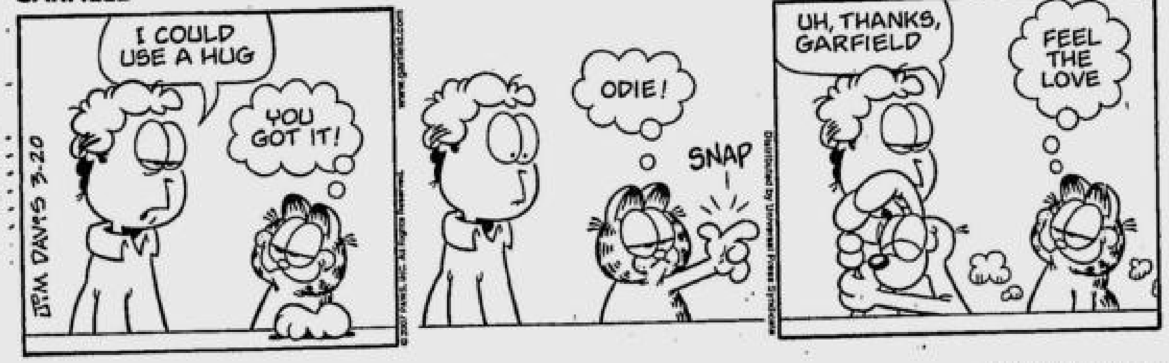
ComicRelief

TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2007

e-mail feedback at arts@inquirer.com.ph

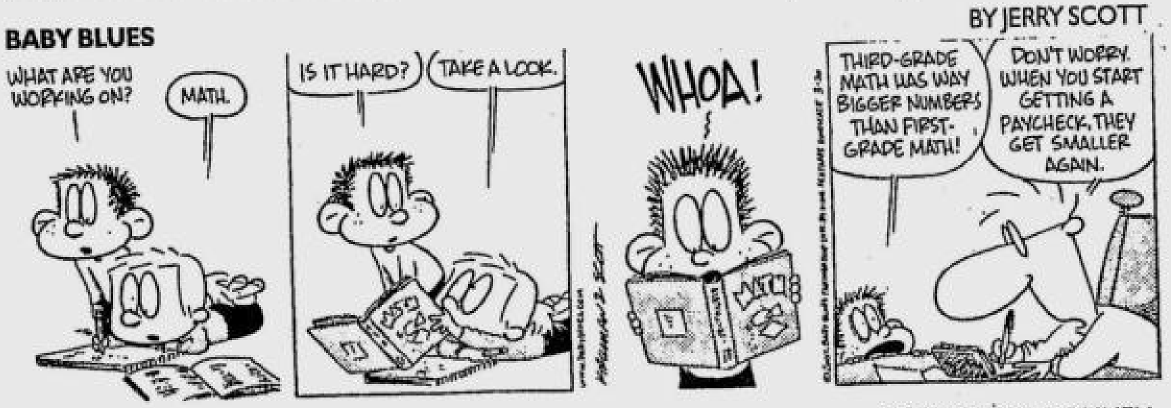
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


I COULD USE A HUG
YOU GOT IT!
JIM DAVIS 3-20
ODIE!
SNAP
UH, THANKS, GARFIELD
FEEL THE LOVE

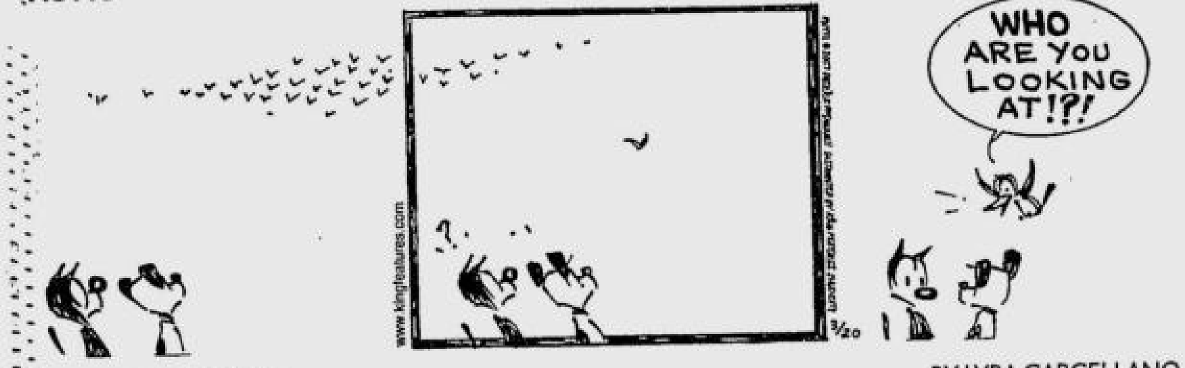
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON?
MATH.
IS IT HARD?
TAKE A LOOK.
WHOA!
THIRD-GRADE MATH HAS WAY BIGGER NUMBERS THAN FIRST-GRADE MATH!
DON'T WORRY. WHEN YOU START GETTING A PAYCHECK, THEY GET SMALLER AGAIN.

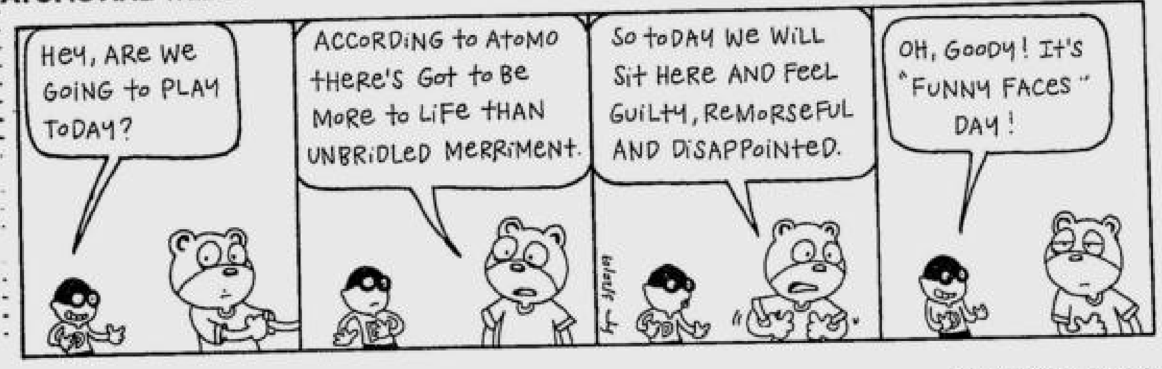
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


?..
3/20
WHO ARE YOU LOOKING AT!?!

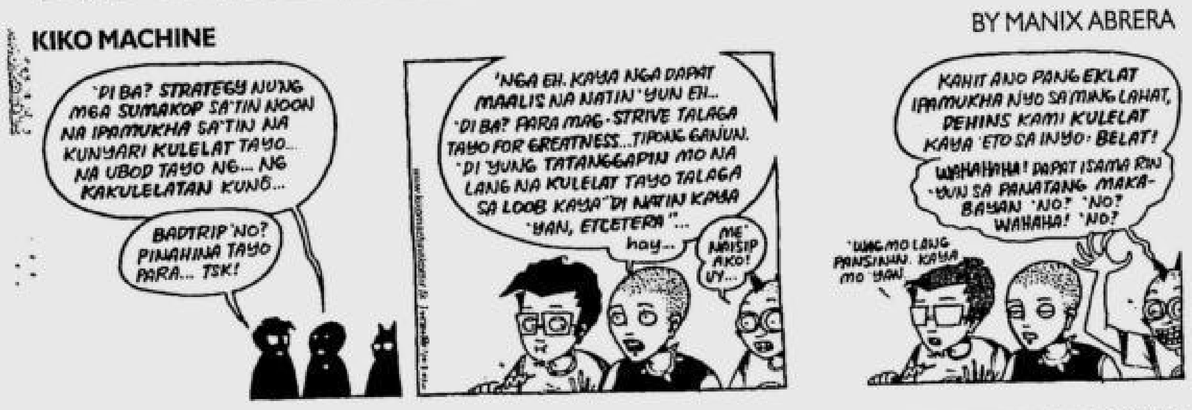
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey, ARE We GOING to PLAY TODAY?
ACCORDING to AtoMO there's Got to Be More to Life THAN UNBRIDLED MERRIMENT.
So toDAY We WILL Sit Here AND Feel Guilty, ReMorseful AND DiSAPPointed.
OH, Goody! It's "FUNNY FACES" DAY!

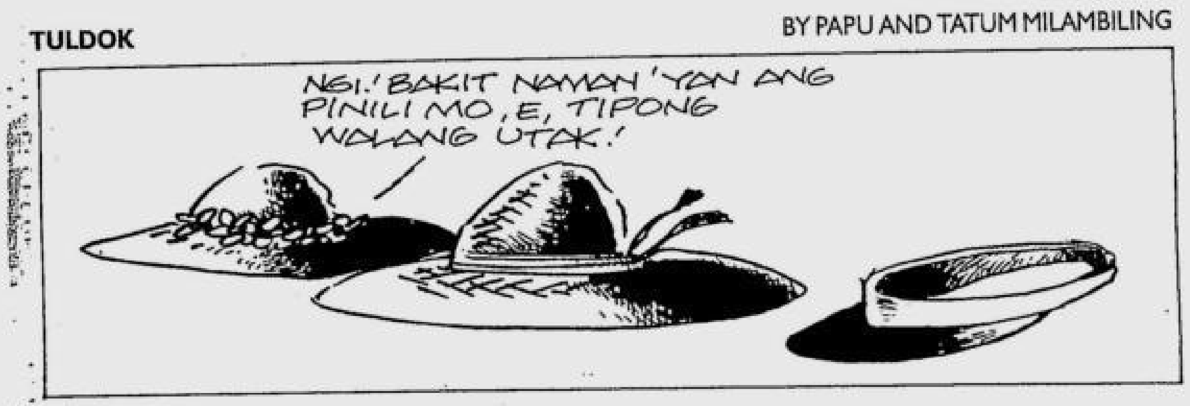
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


'DI BA? STRATEGY NUNG MGA SUMAKOP SA'TIN NOON NA IPAMUKHA SA'TIN NA KUNYARI KULELAT TAYO... NA UBOD TAYO NG... NG KAKULELATAN KUNG...
BADTRIP 'NO? PINAHINA TAYO PARA... TSK!
'NGA EH. KAYA NGA DAPAT MAALIS NA NATIN 'YUN EH... 'DI BA? PARA MAG-STRIVE TALAGA TAYO FOR GREATNESS... TIPONG GANUN. 'DI 'YUNG TATANGGAPIN MO NA LANG NA KULELAT TAYO TALAGA SA LOOB KAYA 'DI NATIN KAYA 'YAN, ETCETERA"...
hay...
ME' NAISIP AKO! UY...
KAHIT ANO PANG EKLAT IPAMUKHA NYO SA MING LAHAT, DEHINS KAMI KULELAT KAYA 'ETO SA INYO- BELAT!
WAHAHAHA! DAPAT ISAMA RIN 'YUN SA PANATANG MAKA-BAYAN 'NO? 'NO? WAHAHA! 'NO?
'WAG MO LANG PANSININ. KAYA MO 'YAN!

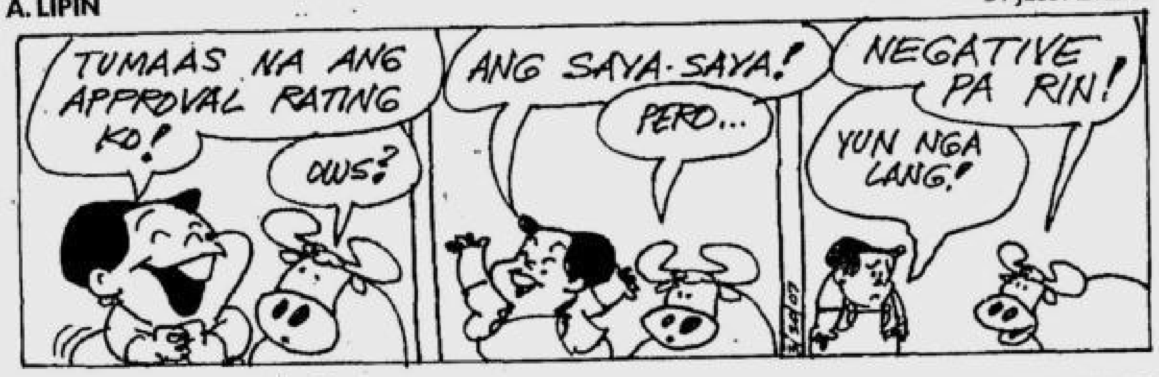
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


NGI! BAKIT NAMAN 'YAN ANG PINILI MO, E, TIPONG WALANG UTAK!

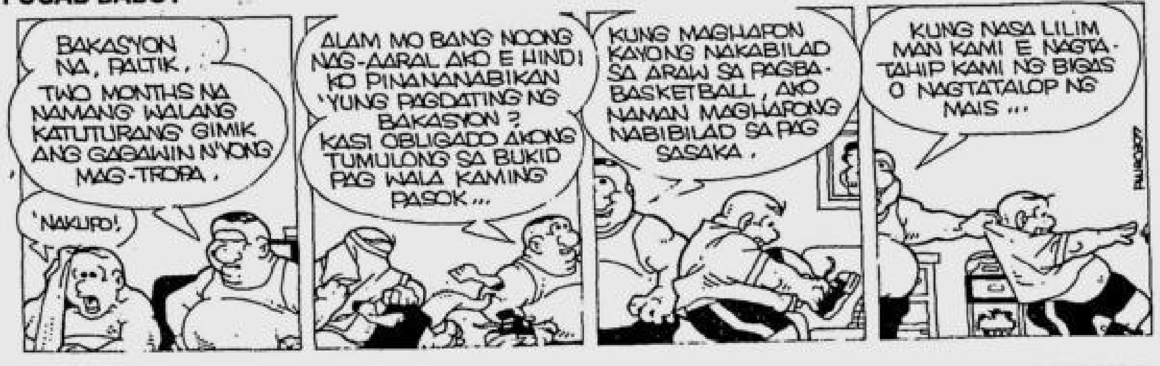
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


TUMAAS NA ANG APPROVAL RATING KO!
OWS?
ANG SAYA-SAYA!
PERO...
NEGATIVE PA RIN!
YUN NGA LANG!

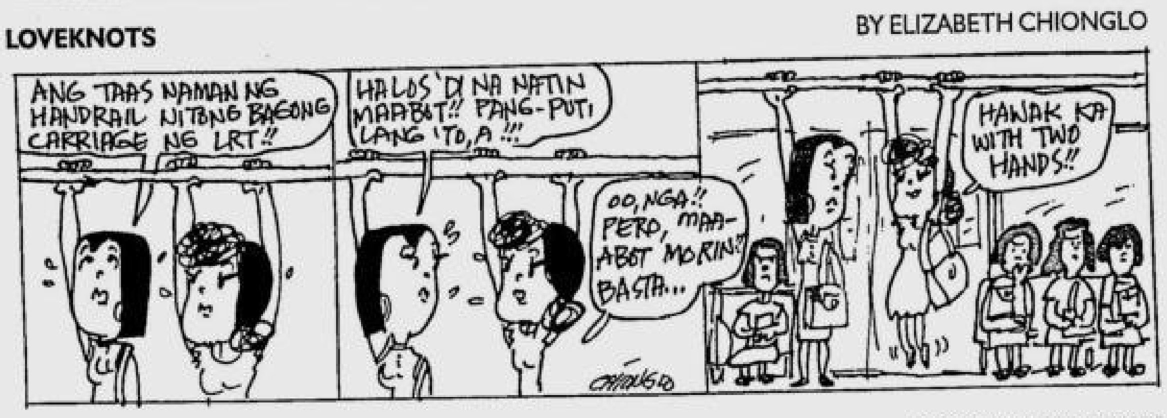
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


BAKASYON NA, PALTIK. TWO MONTHS NA NAMANG WALANG KATUTURANG GIMIK ANG GAGAWIN N'YONG MAG-TROPA.
'NAKUPO!
ALAM MO BANG NOONG NAG-AARAL AKO E HINDI KO PINANANABIKAN 'YUNG PAGDATING NG BAKASYON? KASI OBLIGADO AKONG TUMULONG SA BUKID PAG WALA KAMING PASOK...
KUNG MAGHAPON KAYONG NAKABILAD SA ARAW SA PAGBA-BASKETBALL, AKO NAMAN MAGHAPONG NABIBILAD SA PAG SASAKA.
KUNG NASA LILIM MAN KAMI E NAGTA-TAHIP KAMI NG BIGAS O NAGTATALOP NG MAIS...

LOVEKNOTS

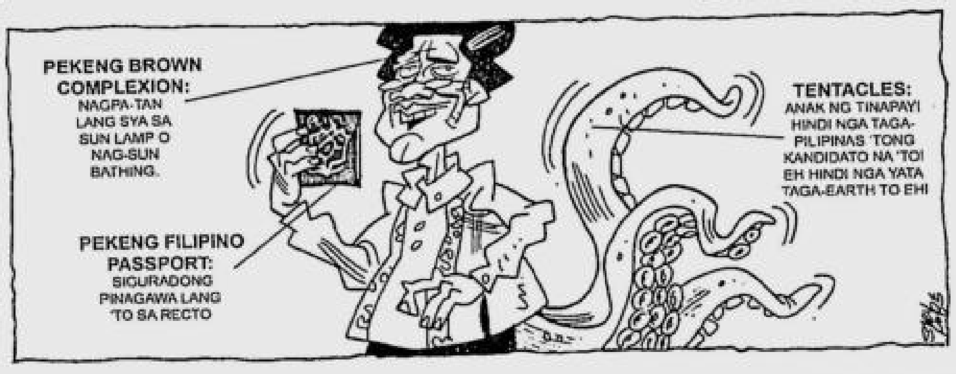
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ANG TAAS NAMAN NG HANDRAIL NITONG BAGONG CARRIAGE NG LRT!!
HALOS 'DI NA NATIN MAABOT!! PANG-PUTI LANG 'TO, A!!!
OO, NGA!! PERO, MAA-ABOT MO RIN!! BASTA...
HANAK KA WITH TWO HANDS!!
CHIONGLO

DIVINE COMEDY

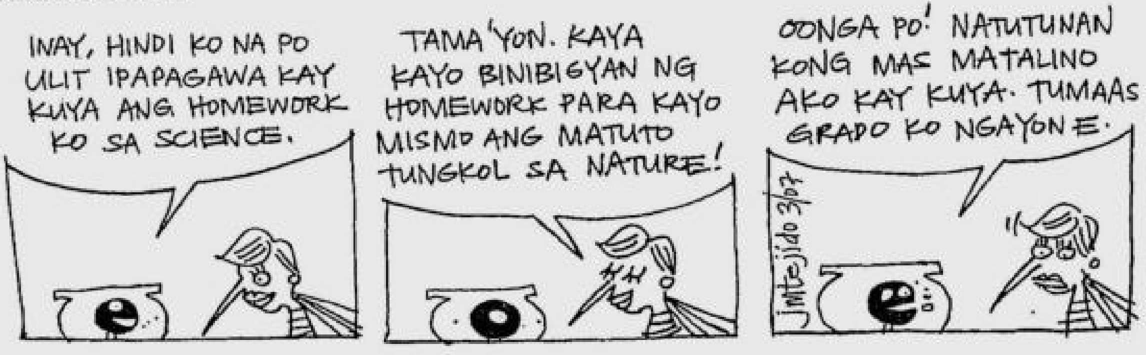
BY STEVEN PABALINAS

HETO PO
ANG ILAN
SA MGA 'SIGNS'
PARA MALAMAN
NATIN NA ANG
ISANG KANDIDATO
AY HINDI TUNAY NA
FILIPINO CITIZEN.
ISUMBONG KAAGAD
SA COMELEC ANG
KANDIDATONG
ITO PARA SYA AY
MA-DISQUALIFY


PEKENG BROWN COMPLEXION: NAGPA-TAN LANG SYA SA SUN LAMP O NAG-SUN BATHING.
PEKENG FILIPINO PASSPORT: SIGURADONG PINAGAWA LANG 'TO SA RECTO
TENTACLES: ANAK NG TINAPAY! HINDI NGA TAGA-PILIPINAS 'TONG KANDIDATO NA 'TO! EH HINDI NGA YATA TAGA-EARTH TO EH!

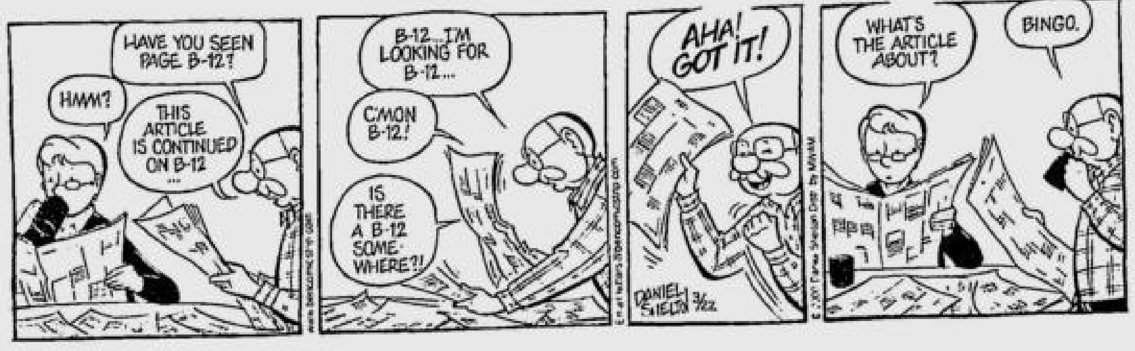
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

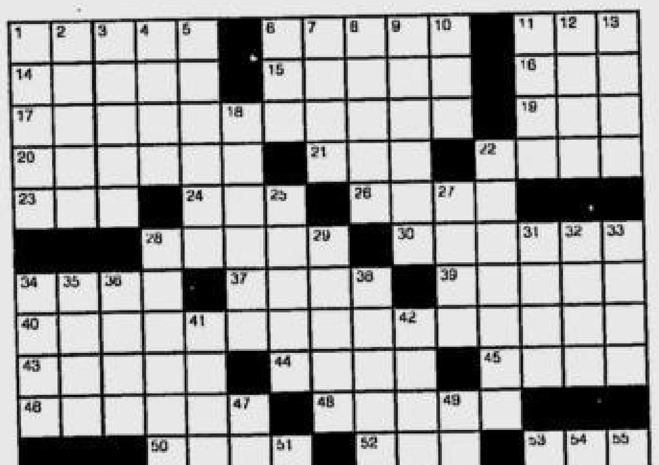

INAY, HINDI KO NA PO ULIT IPAPAGAWA KAY KUYA ANG HOMEWORK KO SA SCIENCE.
TAMA 'YON. KAYA KAYO BINIBIGYAN NG HOMEWORK PARA KAYO MISMO ANG MATUTO TUNGKOL SA NATURE!
OONGA PO! NATUTUNAN KONG MAS MATALINO AKO KAY KUYA. TUMAAS GRADO KO NGAYON E.
jmtejido 3/07

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


HAVE YOU SEEN PAGE B-12?
HMM?
THIS ARTICLE IS CONTINUED ON B-12 ...
B-12...I'M LOOKING FOR B-12...
C'MON B-12!
IS THERE A B-12 SOME-WHERE?!
AHA! GOT IT!
DANIEL SHELTON 3/22
WHAT'S THE ARTICLE ABOUT?
BINGO.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Verna Sult
Silver Spring, MD

3/20/07

ACROSS

1 Mooch
6 Brief helpers
11 Mouser
14 Close, poetically
15 Pago Pago's place
16 In the past
17 James Garner as P.I.
19 Pas' partners
20 Perfect place
21 Sea eagle
22 Disorder
23 Tandoori-baked bread
24 Civil War letters
26 Continental cash
28 Three-line poem
30 Bombarded
34 Woodwind instrument
37 Points of pens
39 Frilly and feminine
40 Pierce Brosnan as P.I.
43 Goatee, e.g.
44 Heaps
45 Lou or Willis
46 Unbroken run
48 The Velvet Fog
50 Distort
52 Shooter pellet
53 Train unit
56 Walton and Waterston
59 Audience disapproval
61 Fleet afloat
63 Paid athlete
64 Jerry Orbach as P.I.
66 Capp and Gore
67 More qualified
68 Castle or Cara
69 Cal. pages
70 IBM feature from 1981
71 Actress Mary

DOWN

1 Bayou cuisine
2 Singer Baker
3 Evil spirit
4 John Irving title hero
5 Beethoven's Third
6 Query
7 Unscathed
8 Campfire treat
9 Distraught
10 Blue
11 Attended
12 Turkish titles
13 Light throw
18 Sausage cover
22 "Tartuffe" playwright
25 Japanese dog
27 Mil. division
28 Will VIP
29 Letter-shaped hardware
31 Fig or fir
32 Glamour rival
33 Made blue, perhaps
34 Poetic planets
35 Borscht base
36 Sharif or Epps
38 Listen at keyholes
41 Sask. neighbor
42 Steady current
47 Meals on sticks
49 Actress Strassman
51 "As the ___ Turns"
53 Proofreader's mark
54 Hersey's bell town
55 Less cooked
56 Junk email
57 One Guthrie
58 Rolling stone's lack?
60 Popular cookie
62 Dept. heads
64 Spiral-sliced meat
65 Mos. and mos.

Monday's Puzzle Solved

M	I	M	I	■	V	I	N	E	S	■	C	A	S	A
I	R	O	N	■	A	W	O	K	E	■	H	U	L	L
C	A	S	E	C	L	O	S	E	D	■	E	D	I	T
E	N	T	R	E	E	■	■	S	U	B	S	I	D	E
■	■	■	T	O	R	C	H	■	C	U	T	T	E	R
M	C	M	■	S	I	R	E	■	E	N	C	■	■	■
A	H	A	B	■	E	A	R	P	■	T	O	T	E	D
L	A	G	O	S	■	M	O	E	■	S	L	A	T	E
T	W	I	X	T	■	P	I	T	T	■	D	I	N	E
■	■	■	S	E	W	■	N	E	R	D	■	L	A	S
S	A	U	C	E	R	■	E	R	I	E	S	■	■	■
O	N	T	O	P	I	C	■	■	C	A	M	E	R	A
N	O	I	R	■	T	R	U	N	K	L	I	N	E	S
E	L	L	E	■	E	A	S	E	L	■	T	I	N	S
S	E	E	S	■	S	W	E	D	E	■	E	D	E	N

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3/20/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a logical, intelligent, inquiring mind. You want answers, and you're willing to explore to search out what you seek. You have a vivid imagination. Many of you are multitalented. (Most of you are also quite psychic.) You enjoy the arts, especially music and dance. Some major changes could take place this year, perhaps as significant as around 1998.

Birthdate of: Bobby Orr, hockey great; Spike Lee, film director; Holly Hunter, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Once again, the Sun has returned to your sign, where it will stay for the next four weeks. It's your turn to recharge your batteries for the rest of the year!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Work behind the scenes or work alone during the next few weeks. You need time to rest and ponder. What do you want your new year to bring you?

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): For the next six weeks, you will be very popular. Accept all invitations. Enjoy good times with others. Join clubs and organizations.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): The Sun is now at high noon in your chart, acting like a spotlight on you. This is why others notice you and ask you to take on extra responsibilities. Say "yes"!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): In the next few weeks, you're hungry to learn more and to expand your experience of the world. Therefore, take a course or study anything new. Visit places you've never been before.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Now is the time to clean up areas related to insurance matters, inheritances, debt and taxes. Wrap up loose ends. (You'll love yourself later for doing this.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): For the next four weeks, the Sun will be directly opposite your sign, making you focus on close friendships and partnerships. You might get the feeling that others oppose you now.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Because you have a strong urge to get better organized in your life, capitalize on this feeling! Leap into action. Reduce the clutter in your life.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): It's finally your turn to play, to take a vacation and to enjoy love and romance. Playful activities with children will also please you. Enjoy lighthearted fun!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Home, family and real estate matters are a top priority for you now and in the next few weeks. Time spent with a parent could be significant.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Fasten your seat belt! The pace of your days is starting to accelerate due to errands, short trips and increased reading, writing and studying. Busy you!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Your cash flow and how you earn and spend money will capture your interest in the next few weeks. Give serious thought to your moneymaking ideas.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

by Dave Green

1		7	9					2
				5		4		
	9	4				8		1
				7				8
	3						2	
6				1				
4		3				1	7	
		5		3				
2					1	6		9

Difficulty Level ★★

3/20

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

2	3	8	5	7	4	9	6	1
5	9	4	3	1	6	2	8	7
1	7	6	9	8	2	5	4	3
6	8	3	2	5	7	4	1	9
4	2	7	8	9	1	6	3	5
9	1	5	6	4	3	8	7	2
3	4	2	1	6	5	7	9	8
8	6	1	7	2	9	3	5	4
7	5	9	4	3	8	1	2	6

Difficulty Level ★

3/19

Tips for interviewers

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

SO YOU WANT TO BECOME A good interviewer on radio or TV? That's a great idea, because the level of local broadcast interviews isn't very high, and the field needs all the help it can get.

Where can you pick up pointers to prepare for your dream profession or avocation? Why not from the best in the biz? And so, to interview *them* about interviewing:

Barbara Walters offers these tips on how you can get to talk to important but reclusive and unpopular people: "Offer them a forum to answer their critics. And, if you get an initial snub, don't lose heart—pursue, pursue, pursue!"

She adds: "I've always been interested in what makes people tick—maybe that's the whole key. You have to care."

And: "Always try to figure out: What does *the public* really want to know about this personality?"

Finally: "You have to prepare for the interview—but too much preparation can also be a no-no. Sometimes, after you've made your interview subject confident that you won't put him or her in a bad light, you should just sit and listen. I try not to pre-interview, because you lose the sense of surprise."

Intuition

Diane Sawyer shares: "I don't think about framing questions too much. I've got to trust my intuition. The question is an excavating tool—when you get so self-conscious about your questions that you get tangled up, you're forgotten your purpose.

"Most good interviews revolve around 'You've got to be kidding' or 'Tell me what you've never told anybody before,' or 'Why?'

"Sometimes, your mistakes produce unexpected results. Somebody blows up and you get something really interesting! He may never speak to you again, but you get something insightful.

"A perfect interview is when the counterpoise between interviewer and interviewee is exact at every part. You're pushing, they're pushing back, and you ease up and they ease back. It never has an awkward moment. It really is a dance at its best."

Demeanor

Finally, **Ted Koppel** speaks up: "The idea of a good interview is to convey information—but there are many different ways of doing that. Frequently, people reveal most about themselves not by what they say, but by their demeanor.

"In interviewing, you need to be able to sublimate your own opinions, and sometimes even your own personality. Always remember that you represent a vast audience. You rarely ... can let yourself ... take an advocacy role.

"The poorest interviewers are the ones who have to show how smart they are. If you push too hard, or too soon, you can turn your audience off.

"Don't be afraid of interviewing important people. They'll lose respect for you—and so will your viewers. Concentrate on the job at hand, and let the questions—and answers—fall where they will!"

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SHANG CINEPLEX

① BECAUSE I SAID SO
MTRCB. PG-13
2.45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00

② 300
MTRCB R-13
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00

③ ROCKY BALBOA
MTRCB PG-13
1 00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00

④ DREAMGIRLS
MTRCB PG-13
1.00, 4.00, 7:00, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE
PATHFINDER
MTRCB R-13
2 45 5 10 7 35 10 00

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RICH PERFORMANCES. Jude Law and Robin Wright Penn in "Breaking and Entering," the latest from Anthony Minghella.

Looking on, but not involved

REVIEW

LOS ANGELES—RATHER THAN A forced entry into deep matters of the heart and multicultural relations, Anthony Minghella's "Breaking and Entering" feels more like casual window-shopping on the issues.

Writer-director Minghella leaves viewers with their faces pressed to the glass, looking on but not really involved with this dramatic study of a London couple and an immigrant mother and son whose lives cross over a series of burglaries.

Rich performances from past Minghella collaborators Jude Law, Juliette Binoche and Ray Winstone, along with Robin Wright Penn, bring more depth and soul to the film than the somewhat superficial characters and overly contrived situations warrant.

An emotional frostiness in much of Minghella's work, including "Cold Mountain" and best-picture Academy Award winner "The English Patient," is distinctly present here, hindering the audience's ability to connect with the people on screen.

Gentrification

"Breaking and Entering" is a return to contemporary London for Minghella, who made his debut with 1991's romantic gem of a ghost story "Truly Madly Deeply." Unlike that low-key, unassuming little lark, "Breaking and Entering" is almost as big a film as his period pieces in production and scope.

Minghella and his team went to great lengths to capture a region of London in flux, expansively presenting the transition of the King's Cross district from a seedy haven for crime and transients to a bustling business and transportation nexus.

In the heart of this massive gentrification is landscape architect Will Francis (Law), whose company has the contract to design open spaces for the King's Cross redevelopment.

Will and his partner have just opened their fabulously modern office in an old foundry, but their company headquarters immediately is hit by ongoing burglaries orchestrated by a gang of Bosnian immigrants.

Staking out the office in his car at night, Will obsesses on catching the thieves, further straining an already cold relationship with longtime girlfriend Liv (Wright Penn) and her mildly autistic teenage daughter, Bea (Poppy Rogers).

Will's surveillance eventually leads him to bright but delinquent teen Miro (Rafi Gavron), who fled Bosnia as a young boy with his mother, Amira (Binoche), a seamstress.

One strange romantic entanglement and a lot of forced deceptions later, everyone's lives are swirling through traumatic changes that reflect the breaking-down-to-build-back-up transition in King's Cross itself.

Minghella casts about widely, exploring societal transience, economic and political displacement, bias against immigrants and the notion that crimes of the heart may be far more sinister than felonious misdeeds.

In the end, the film wraps up awfully neatly considering how sloppy and unraveled the characters' lives had been at the height of their conflicts.

Minghella also injects too many conveniences—coincidental encounters and artificial parallels (what are the odds that Poppy and Miro are both into gymnastic pursuits?).

Chemistry

Law and Wright Penn share great chemistry both in Will and Liv's loving moments and their worst of times. But Binoche, who won the supporting-actress Oscar for "The English Patient," dominates the film with a fearless performance as a lonely mother alternately wooed and betrayed, ferociously willing to do whatever it takes to protect her son.

It's nice to see Winstone, known for playing heavies in such films as "The Departed," do an amiable turn as a compassionate cop. Martin Freeman adds some cheeky humor as Will's business partner.

Juliette Stevenson, star of "Truly Madly Deeply," has a fleeting role as a therapist, her appearance a reminder of how much more heart and humanity that earlier, smaller film had than Minghella's latest.

"Breaking and Entering," released by MGM and the Weinstein Co., runs 119 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four. *AP*

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PATHFINDER 12:10 / 2:35 / 5:00 / 7:25 / 9:50	DREAMGIRLS 1:30 / 4:10 / 6:50 / 9:30	LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE 2:10 / 4:40 / 7:10 / 9:40	
HAPPY HEARTS 1:00 / 3:10 / 5:20 / 7:30 / 9:40	YOU GOT ME 1:00 / 3:10 / 5:20 / 7:30 / 9:40	PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS 3:40 / 9:40 THE GOOD SHEPHERD 12:20 / 6:20	300 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00

ALIMALL 5

1	300 12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00	2	PATHFINDER 11:55 / 2:05 / 4:15 / 6:25 / 8:35	3	ROCKY BALBOA 11:30 / 1:50 / 4:10 / 6:30 / 8:50
4	HAPPY HEARTS 11:55 / 2:05 / 4:15 / 6:25 / 8:35	5	YOU GOT ME 11:55 / 2:05 / 4:15 / 6:25 / 8:35		DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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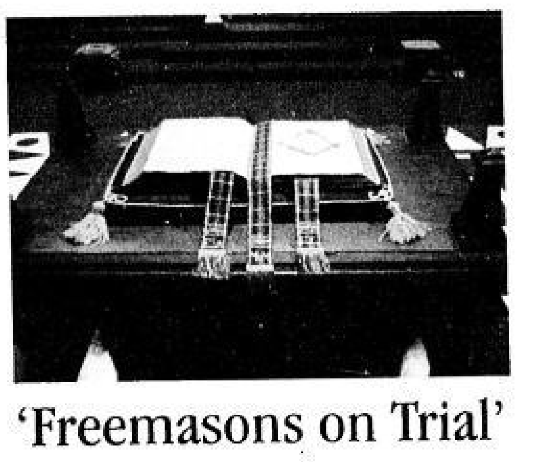
March 23, Friday 8 pm



'Freemasons on Trial'

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL features an investigation on the link between the grisly murder of a prominent Italian businessman in London and the world's most secret society in "Freemasons on Trial" on March 23 at 4 p.m.

A grisly discovery is made at dawn on June 18, 1982 when "God's Banker"—a prominent Italian businessman with ties to the Vatican—is found hanging from Blackfriars Bridge in London. Originally ruled a suicide, the murder of Roberto Calvi casts a suspicious eye on the world's most secret society—The Freemasons.

Examined in "Freemasons" is an organization shrouded in mystery with secret handshakes, rituals and regulations and its potential link to events like the Calvi murder.

Some speculators argue that the Freemasons have played a role in everything—from the death of Pope John Paul I to the Jack the Ripper murders.

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